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Mourners stand in pouring rain at the graveside of Sgt. Yaniv Schimmel during the funeral at Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Aloni, Kessar, Tzaban to step down

THREE cabinet ministers announced last night that they would not be competing in their parties' primaries that will select the lists for the next Knesset elections.

Meretz was shaken when both its leader, Science and Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, and Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban, its No. 2, announced they would not run.

But while Tzaban, citing "personal reasons," is apparently retiring from the Knesset, Aloni took the party to task for having "abandoned its ideals," and did not rule out a run against Meretz on her own list.

Transportation Minister Yisrael Kessar of Labor also said he would not be seeking another Knesset term.

Appearing on Channel 1's *Moked* interview program, Aloni said she had made her decision long ago. She was noncommittal about whether she is dropping out of politics altogether or would be running on a new list of her own.

"I have nothing against starting all over again. I am not 'going home,'" she said. "I will be

watching the Meretz primaries. My decision will have to do with who gets elected, what the platform is, etc. ... There are a number of tempting options before me now, and I will have to choose the greatest temptation amongst them."

Aloni, who founded the Citizens Rights Movement, a component of Meretz, is seen as having had little choice but to step down because of the powerful challenge to her leadership by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid.

She accused Sarid of "not having behaved in a civilized political manner," and said that had she "noticed the size and shape of his signature early enough, I would have calculated my political association with him differently ... Friends had long warned me about him and it is no coincidence that the Meretz membership drive is going so badly."

Aloni stressed, however, that she "remains communications minister and party leader until the next elections, even though Yossi Sarid already crowned himself leader a year and a half ago."

She complained that Meretz had "ceased being a party in which the

ideal is central and has become too cumbersome and pragmatic. I want to be free to speak my mind and not to be cautioned to hush up and told that I am shooting myself in the foot. I promise not to stay silent."

Much of Aloni's trouble originated from provocative statements which cost her the Education portfolio and led many to consider her an embarrassment to the party.

She said, however, that she "regrets nothing I said. The loss of the Education Ministry is partly the fault of my colleagues in Meretz ... It is not credible to air out today what the party has not stood for during the past three years. While Meretz did well on the peace front, it has abandoned its civil rights platform ... The party is not left enough. There is too much of a gap between us and Hadash, and I would like to see Meretz further left."

Meretz sources expressed regret for the record, but almost a sense of relief off the record. The worry, however, is that Aloni may yet run against Meretz or sling enough mud to hurt its electoral prospects.

Sarid said only that he is sorry about Aloni's departure, adding that she could still contribute much (Continued on Page 2)

Peres: Palestinian elections will proceed despite terror attacks

BATSHEVA TSUR
and LIAT COLLINS

PALESTINIAN elections will go ahead on Saturday despite Tuesday's attack that killed an IDF doctor and medic, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

Maj. Oz Tibon, 28, and Sgt. Yaniv Schimmel, 20, were both buried yesterday at the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem. Hundreds attended the funerals in the pouring rain, including OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran.

"There are still a number of Hamas and Jihad cells that are interested in attacking people and [harming] the peace process. We will not allow them to prevent the holding of the elections," Peres said. "We shall fight them with all our might... We will not allow them to determine whether or not the elections are held. There's no chance of that."

But Peres said it was not up to Israel alone to combat terrorism.

"We expect the Palestinian Authority also to fight it. It harms them as well as innocent people," he said.

Israel does not yet know the identities of the terrorists who killed the two soldiers, Deputy Defense Minister Ori Orr told the Knesset plenum yesterday, in



Maj. Oz Tibon.



Sgt. Yaniv Schimmel.

response to several motions to the agenda on the attack.

Orr said the soldiers, who were in a car, were fired upon from a car that passed them. Tibon apparently died immediately but Schimmel returned fire before collapsing.

Security sources said yesterday that the attack is believed to have been carried out by members of the Palestinian rejectionist organizations. Forces have been placed on high alert for more attacks in the advance of elections.

The attack on a woman taxi driver in Ashdod, also on Tuesday, was criminally motivated.

"The three Arab passengers pulled a knife on her after refusing to pay," Orr said.

Faced with heavy criticism from opposition MKs, Orr said the government had carried out interim arrangements via the Oslo accords but three large questions still must be faced in the final-status talks: Jerusalem's status; the borders of the Palestinian entity, and the right of

return for Palestinian refugees.

"Nobody said the war is over," Orr said.

"The government's decision to consciously avoid using the political process as a card to stop terror attacks, in effect determines a twisted agenda. The considerations of carrying out a dialogue with the PLO outweigh the security considerations," charged National Religious Party head MK Zevulun Hammer.

"The government cannot tie up its power and military might and link the state's future with Arafat."

"We see again the dove of peace with iron wings hitting out," said Naomi Blumenthal (Likud). She accused the government of bringing about a situation in which "we are losing our hold on the Land of Israel."

Molodet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said the government should examine the intentions and not the results of attacks.

"Those who succeeded in driving us out of Ramallah with stones and Molotov cocktails will drive us also from Ramle, Jaffa and Haifa."

Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told reporters the Palestinian Authority should crack down on terror "instead of firing a 21-gun salute to [slain Hamas terrorist] Yihye Ayyash."

On Levy contributed to this report

Report: PA helped Israel to locate Yihye Ayyash

NEW YORK (Reuter) - The New York newspaper *Newsday* reported yesterday the PA cooperated with Israel to assassinate Hamas's legendary bomb maker Yihye Ayyash.

The Long Island newspaper quoted a US government counterterrorism source as saying it was the PA "that finally located the Gaza Strip home of a former college roommate where Israel's most wanted man was hiding."

The source added that Israel had not been able to locate Ayyash, known as the "Engineer" for his bomb making skills, despite two years of intensive hunting.

The paper also quoted another government source "who monitors developments in the Mideast" as confirming the counterterrorism

source's account.

Ayyash, held responsible for making bombs that killed dozens of Israelis over the last three years, was assassinated on January 5 when a remote-controlled device planted in a cellular phone he was using exploded. *Newsday* said the General Security Service supplied the bobby-trapped cellular phone and said an Israeli spokesman declined comment on its report.

The paper quoted PA spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh as completely denying the report. "It is definitely not true. 100 percent. We condemned the act. It was a violation of the treaty we signed with the Israelis. They committed the act on our land without respect for our sovereignty," he was quoted as saying.

Tough sentences for NY bombers

NEW YORK (AP) - A federal judge handed down stiff prison terms to nine followers of Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman - including life in prison to the alleged killer of Rabbi Meir Kahane - in a terrorist conspiracy that targeted the UN and other landmarks.

US District Judge Michael Mukasey came down hardest on El Sayyid Nosair, who was acquitted on murder charges in connection with Kahane's 1990 murder.

Nosair was convicted in the plot to destabilize the US government by bombing the UN, FBI headquarters in Manhattan, the Holland and Lincoln tunnels linking Manhattan and New Jersey, and the George Washington Bridge - all in a single day.

Earlier report, Page 4

Shetreet: Pope likely to visit next year

LISA PALMIERI-BILLIG
ROME

POPE John Paul II is likely to visit Jerusalem in 1997 on a religious pilgrimage and to encourage the peace process, Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet said here yesterday, after meeting with the pope and other Vatican officials.

He told reporters that a trip is "more likely to take place in 1997 than in 1996, but I don't exclude 1996."

Shetreet said the visit would not

be contingent on the peace talks.

The pope received an official invitation to visit Israel from Yitzhak Rabin, when he last visited Rome in March 1994.

Shetreet was accompanied by ministry Director-General Asher Sager, Uri Mor, the head of the Christian communities depart-

ment, and Shmuel Hadas, Israel's ambassador to the Holy See.

Shetreet said the pope felt it would be important to commemorate "the memory of the tragedy of the Shoah" during his visit in Israel.

He said he had asked for Vatican cooperation in locating the 60-kg. gold menorah from the Second Temple that was brought to Rome by Titus 70 CE.

Shetreet claimed that recent research at the University of Florence indicated the menorah might be among the hidden treasures in

the Vatican's catacombs.

"I don't say it's there for sure," he said, "but I asked the pope to help in the search as a goodwill gesture in recognition of the improved relations between Catholics and Jews."

The pope and Vatican officials asked to be updated on the peace talks, but made no suggestions or comments on Jerusalem's future.

Since the beginning of Vatican-Israeli diplomatic relations and the parallel Israeli-Arab peace talks, the Vatican has continued to speak of "international guarantees" for religious sites and communities, but has consistently refrained from making any statements on Jerusalem's political status.

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Husseini: Holland still supports Palestinian claim to capital

BILL HUTMAN

DUTCH Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo reiterated his nation's support of the Palestinian claim to eastern Jerusalem, Faisal Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, said yesterday after meeting him at Orient House.

"Holland has always recognized east Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories," Husseini told reporters. "Holland, as you know, does not recognize Israel's annexation of east Jerusalem in 1967."

Van Mierlo avoided reporters questions as he left the meeting, stating only, "We had a very good meeting. I will make no further comment."

Husseini said the calls by Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal to prevent Van Mierlo's visit worked in the Palestinians' favor by drawing more attention to it.

"We have had such meetings since before the Oslo accords," Husseini said. "Negotiations on Jerusalem's future are to start in May, and Israel has no right beforehand to take unilateral action in Jerusalem."

Shahal said the government had agreed to look away "just this once," Israel Radio reported.

A senior government source, however, said Shahal was not speaking for the government, and there are no plans to halt future visits by foreign ministers to Orient House.

About 25 protesters from the Women in Green stood outside Orient House, carrying signs and shouting slogans against Van Mierlo's visit.

"We thought the Dutch were



Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo meets with Faisal Husseini at Orient House yesterday. (Brian Heidler)

our friends," said Women in Green leader Nadia Matar. "But apparently they believe Jerusalem belongs to the great murderer [Yasser] Arafat."

On Tuesday, a meeting between Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert was almost cut short, after Olmert sharply criticized Dutch policy on eastern Jerusalem, a city spokesman said.

Kok's spokesman Eef Brouwers, however, told AP that Olmert and Kok had differences of opinion, but that "there were no hard feelings on our side."

"We have so many years of experience and we know how to handle people with all views," Brouwers said.

Liat Collins adds: Internal Security Minister Moshe told the Knesset Interior

Committee that Van Mierlo's was made more serious as he was part of Kok's official delegation.

"In my opinion there is no reason for a foreign minister to be at Orient House," Shahal said. "The Oslo accords, have made it possible for any country to discuss any policy with Arafat in the West Bank, and there's no need to hold discussions with Faisal Husseini in Jerusalem."

Shahal: No secret talks being held on Jerusalem

Netanyahu calls for PLO-free capital

LIAT COLLINS

INTERNAL Security Minister Moshe Shahal told the Knesset Interior Committee he knows of no secret negotiations on Jerusalem's status.

Shahal was responding to the charge by Jerusalem Mayor MK Ehud Olmert (Likud) that Prof. Yair Hirschfeld and Ron Fondak are laying the groundwork in Europe for an Oslo-style agreement on Jerusalem on behalf of Minister Yossi Beilin.

"Why is this important? Because the [Palestinian Authority] elections provide the logistic, operative infrastructure to give Jerusalem Palestinian status," Olmert said.

Olmert urged Shahal to "admit the claim that voting is not taking place in east Jerusalem is fictitious."

Shahal replied with the familiar explanation that the five post

offices will be used on a one-time basis: forms, not ballots, will be filled out and placed in containers, rather than ballot boxes; and the counting will take place outside of Jerusalem.

Shahal said Israel had approved 978,000 Palestinians as being eligible to vote, of the 1.3 million who had registered. Within Jerusalem municipal boundaries, there are 49,000 Arabs registered. He noted that the Palestinian Authority had difficulty getting people to register in Jerusalem.

Shahal stressed he has taken action against illegal election campaigning and PA activities in Jerusalem and cited many examples, including the banning of a meeting between Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) and UN representatives at Notre Dame Hotel.

Shahal drew criticism among committee members when he called on rabbis not to encourage protests on election day, "which would necessitate mass Shabbat desecration by police."

Olmert also called on the public not to disrupt the elections.

LIAT adds:

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking at his party's "Emergency Gathering for Jerusalem" last night, called for "national unity on Jerusalem and the immediate enactment of an emergency program to strengthen our sovereignty over the united city as the capital of Israel."

He called for ridding the city of PLO institutions, increased building, strengthening settlements on the city's outskirts, creating links between Jewish areas in the city, and strengthening the city's security and economy.

Bill to expand Jerusalem rejected

LIAT COLLINS

A BILL to widen the jurisdiction of Jerusalem to include Ma'aleh Adumim, Gush Etzion, Givat Ze'ev and Betar was rejected by the Knesset in preliminary reading yesterday.

The bill, sponsored by Likud MK Ovadia Eli, was supported by 42 MKs from the Likud, Tsomet, National Religious Party, Moledei, United Torah Judaism and Shas as well as Labor MK and Third Way member Emmanuel Zisman; 48 MKs from Labor, Meretz and the Arab parties opposed it.

Eli said the bill was an attempt

to strengthen Jerusalem's status in the face of the "government's willingness to agree to concessions there."

He said the government's objections to the bill showed its true intentions for a plan to redivide the city.

"Faced with Yasser Arafat's declarations on Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state with him as its head, we see the government voting against a bill which strengthens Jerusalem's status," he said.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, who answered for the government, said past Likud governments had not changed Jerusalem's status or annexed "Greater Jerusalem" to it.

Shahal also said the bill completely conflicted with the agreements Israel had signed with the Palestinians and therefore the government was obliged to oppose it. "The bill would be a significant violation of the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians," Shahal said.

Court hears state's appeal on detainee's case

EVELYN GORDON

SUPREME Court Justice Mishael Cheshin yesterday heard the state's appeal against Jerusalem District Court's decision to show administrative detainee Aryeh Friedman the classified evidence against him.

No ruling had been issued at press time, and it is not clear if the ruling will be issued in time for Friedman's hearing before Jerusalem District Court President Vardimos Zaitler this morning.

Cheshin did, however, tell Friedman that the suspicions against him were based on his having extremist views which might lead him into extreme actions.

Friedman, a rabbinical court lawyer who recently moved from Kiryat Arba to Jerusalem, was arrested on Thursday and placed under administrative detention for three months. Because he lives within the Green Line, his detention requires approval by a district court president within 48 hours.

When Friedman was brought before Zaitler on Thursday, he requested the right to see the classified material against him. Zaitler, partially acceded to this request at a hearing on Sunday, and then, at another on Monday, decided that even more of the classified evidence should be revealed, noting that administrative detention, which is generally based on classified evidence, is "alien to the basic legal principle that one doesn't judge a man in secret."

However, Zaitler gave the state 48 hours to appeal before actually releasing the material.

Meanwhile, the High Court of Justice rejected Friedman's petition for immediate release. Friedman, via attorney Mordechai Mintzer, had argued that his administrative detention was invalid, because the law requiring a district court president to review the case within 48 hours had been violated.

Although Friedman was brought before Zaitler within this time limit, Mintzer said, his case was not heard, because Zaitler ordered the 48-hour delay to give the state time to appeal.

However, Justices Eliezer Goldberger, Eliahu Mazza, and Yitzhak Zamir rejected this argument. The hearing began on time, they said, and was delayed only because Friedman himself requested declassification of the material. Furthermore, they said, Zaitler did examine the classified evidence at the earlier hearing, so the minimum requirements of judicial supervision were met.

Protesters agree to stay away from PA polling stations

BILL HUTMAN

ORGANIZERS of the right-wing protests against the Palestinian elections in Jerusalem on Saturday told police yesterday they would not go near the voting stations, police said.

However, the organizers said they wanted to hold events in the City of David section of Silwan, despite police concern this would cause unrest.

In a statement released after a meeting between the organizers and police brass, a police spokesman said the sides "would meet again to work out the plans for

the City of David."

The organizers agreed to coordinate all their protests with police, the spokesman said.

Police have expressed concern that right-wing protests would spark unrest in eastern Jerusalem on election day, and that Jewish extremists might interfere with the voting.

"The police will do everything necessary to allow legal demonstrations, but all such action must be coordinated with police to ensure safety and public order," said Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz.

Disagreement over who should guard Hebron polling booths

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIANS and Israelis disagree whether police or civilian inspectors should patrol the Hebron polling stations during Saturday's elections.

Hebron is currently in area C, where Israel has full security control, though most of Hebron is slated to come under Palestinian control in March.

There are 63 polling stations in Hebron and 20 more in isolated villages nearby. Israel agrees to have 460 uniformed, but unarmed inspectors, at the Hebron polling stations. The Palestinians claim that only armed police can prevent trouble.

Palestinians also claim that Israel agreed to move troops to the Jewish quarters on the day of the election, but the IDF denies this, although it will keep away from polling stations and will beef up its presence in the Jewish quarters.

After March, Hebron will be divided into the Jewish quarter, where the IDF will remain; what is being called "Area B," the area around it where unarmed inspectors will patrol; and the rest of the city, patrolled by armed Palestinian policemen.

Fewer Hebronites than other Palestinians are expected to vote because of the continued Israeli presence.

A poll conducted for Channel 1 by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center gives PLO leader Yasser Arafat 81 percent of the vote in the presidential balloting. The poll, conducted this week among 777 interviewees, showed 7% for challenger Samiha Khalil.

The poll indicated that 64% of Palestinians will vote, while 30% will not and 6% are undecided. Support for Fatah was estimated at 59% and for Hamas, 12%.

Court asked to move PA voting to weekday

EVELYN GORDON

THE Palestinian Authority elections should be postponed to a weekday, to avoid desecration of the Sabbath, a petition to the High Court of Justice demanded yesterday.

Alternatively, the petition argued, only non-Jewish security personnel or Postal Authority clerks should be used in the proceedings.

The petition was filed by Rabbi Mordechai Halperin, a former army chaplain who is now a member of the Merom Hagall Regional Council and chairman of the local Likud branch.

Halperin noted that army regulations forbid soldiers to be forced to do any work not essential for saving lives on Shabbat,

while civilian laws give government employees the same protection. Staffing post offices for the PA elections is certainly not essential for saving lives, he noted, and while the presence of the security forces might be necessary, the necessity could be eliminated simply by moving the elections to a weekday.

According to Jewish law, though it is permissible to violate Shabbat to save lives, it is not permissible to create a situation where violating Shabbat to save lives is necessary if this situation is avoidable, Halperin noted. In this case, any need to violate Shabbat could be avoided simply by changing the date of the elections.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police decide not to investigate Ben-Yair
Police decided yesterday not to open an investigation into the conduct of Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, after a complaint was filed in which he was accused of obstructing justice. Police said there is no basis for criminal suspicions. The complaint was filed after reports that Ben-Yair told Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak that he was shocked that IDF officers had given affidavits to the High Court of Justice in support of the petition against him by reserve soldiers.

51 soldiers killed in action in 1995
Fifty-one soldiers fell in action during 1995, 23 of them in Lebanon, according to the annual report submitted by OC Manpower Branch Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. The number of suicides, 43, was the same as in 1994. Twenty soldiers were killed in accidents of different types.

Court rejects Levinger's appeal
Jerusalem District Court yesterday turned down Moshe Levinger's appeal of his 1995 conviction for rioting stemming from an incident in Hebron in 1991. Levinger will begin serving a six-month sentence in a few days.

MKS aid cardiac problem awareness drive
Under the slogan "Heart-to-Heart," more than 70 MKs and Knesset workers had their weight, blood pressure, sugar and cholesterol levels, and cardiac functions checked yesterday.

ALONI

(Continued from Page 1) to the country. Earlier in the day, he had left the podium when Aloni addressed a Meretz youth rally.

MK Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism), a longtime critic of Aloni's, expressed satisfaction at her decision, saying it was one of the better decisions she has made recently.

"Now that she no longer needs to chase after votes or try to be popular, she will be able to devote time to soul-searching," he told him, "not only about the good she has accomplished, but also about 31 years of hatred toward the religious community and the Jewish religion."

Tzaban, leader of Metetz's Mapam component, said he would continue to help the party's electoral effort. His departure, however, will create some upheaval, as there will now be competition for

the Mapam leadership. Kessar is facing possible indictment for his alleged role in the Ilustrad corruption scandals still under investigation; his wife is also very ill. He was given little chance of succeeding in the upcoming primaries.

In the Likud, Dimona Mayor Gabi Laloche, who had recently returned to the party after defecting to David Levy's movement, also announced that he will not be seeking a Knesset seat.

Laloche stressed, however, that he will stay in the party, and denied that he decided not to run because he discovered that his chances were slim.

"I returned to the Likud for ideological reasons, and I remain here no matter what," he said. Early election bill defeated. Labor preparing for primaries.

Settler heads reject Bin-Nun's criticism of Nablus yeshiva

HERB KEINON

GROUP of four settlement leaders went to Joseph's Tomb in Nablus yesterday to show their solidarity with the yeshiva there, following the leak of a letter by Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun that blasted the yeshiva and its head, Rabbi Yitzhak Ginsberg.

In a letter to the members of the directorate of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, Bin-Nun wrote that Ginsberg had authored an article in support of Baruch Goldstein in a book in honor of Goldstein, and that at one time the rabbi disagreed with Bin-Nun, who had said that all killing, including the killing of non-Jews, is a desecration of God's name.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Rabbi Ginsberg and his methods are a real danger to the

settlement enterprise, to yeshiva, to the society and the state," Bin-Nun wrote.

Bin-Nun called on the settlement leaders to reorganize the yeshiva.

"A new yeshiva should be established, with a new head and staff, and we can struggle together from a moral base for the existence of a large and serious yeshiva there," he wrote.

Ginsberg, along with three other rabbis at the yeshiva and about 10 students, have been issued administrative orders barring them from entering the site for six months. Ginsberg refused to comment last night.

Uri Ariel, the council secretary and one of those who went to the yeshiva, said that Bin-Nun's letter was way out of line.

Jordan, Israel to sign last four agreements today

JORDAN and Israel are to complete their normalization process today, after signing the last four of some 15 agreements between them. Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Shimon Peres will attend the festive signing ceremony in Akaba after which the steering committee between the two countries will be disbanded and the relevant government offices will begin dealing with relations between the two countries.

One agreement will fix the maritime border between Israel and Jordan. The others will relate to cooperation between Akaba and Eilat, to telecommunications and to scientific and cultural ties.



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مركز اناجی

Inspectors shut egg-processing plant

Ministry wants firm prosecuted

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry has shut down the only egg-processing company in the country, Chum in the Meron industrial park, after finding serious hygienic problems during a surprise inspection.

The ministry said it would also press the State Attorney's Office to prosecute the firm.

The Galilee company produces pasteurized, powdered and frozen eggs and egg products that are used for making processed foods. Inspectors found that its pasteurization process had significant shortcomings. The factory failed in its responsibility to sort out eggs that were unfit for human consumption from those fit for human consumption.

Chemicals for cleaning and disinfecting - many of them poisonous - were strewn in an enclosure along with various food additives. There was complete disorder in the warehouse, with no markings on many packages. This led the ministry inspectors to suspect

that products for animal consumption could be confused with those meant for people.

In addition, the factory did not meet mandatory standards for quality control.

The ministry urged the public not to buy cholesterol-free frozen eggs from the company; the commercial name for this product is "Beitzach."

Other raw materials made by the company are heated in cooking and baking, which kills any bacteria that may have been in the finished product, the ministry said. It was not clear from the ministry whether any egg whites are used for frosting or for mousse without baking, thereby making them potentially dangerous.

The ministry said that an epidemiological study carried out yesterday found that no "exceptional cases of food poisoning" had been reported until recently.

Court rejects Meshulam backers' appeal

RAINE MARCUS

THE Tel Aviv District Court rejected an appeal by four of Uzi Meshulam's followers against their remand, though Judge Menahem Ilan said police, at this point, have insufficient evidence to indict them.

Haim Shabi, Yosef Yehuda, Menahem Shrama and Avner Dahari were remanded for seven days by Kfar Sava Magistrate's Court on Sunday, on suspicion they had conspired to harm public figures and property. Police found a small quantity of drugs, along with bullets, bullet-proof vests and "seditious material" at some of their homes.

Referring to confidential information given him by police, Ilan said: "there is no guarantee, based on the information collected, that there will ever be indictments against these people, and I also do not believe that at this early stage of the investigation one can request from the police material that justifies indictments."

Possession of a small amount of marijuana and a few 9 mm bullets, while a criminal offense, do not warrant remand, he added.

"But what convinced the Kfar Sava Magistrate's Court judge, and myself, is the confidential information relating to the alleged intent by all the appellants to harm public figures and property," he said.

Dahari's attorney, Avi Udiz, insisted that his client is not a Meshulam supporter.

"He has no criminal record; is not even religious and his only association with the other suspects is that he knows them since



Four supporters of Uzi Meshulam appear yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court, where they lost their appeal against their remand.

childhood and they chewed *gat* together," said Udiz. *Gat* is an intoxicating hot legal herb often used by Yemenites.

"Even the judge said there was no real evidence," Udiz added. "I don't want my client to be amongst the 80% of those arrested but who are never indicted on

criminal charges." A few "old bullets" and a small quantity of marijuana were found at Dahari's home.

Udiz added that he intends to petition the High Court of Justice against the remand and to obtain a "ruling in principle" on the issue.

Tsadek Hugi, who represented Shabi, Yehuda and Shrama, said that public pressure had led to his clients' arrests.

"If the suspects were not Yemenite then the police would not have arrested them," said Hugi. "The police arrested and then released three men who allegedly

printed a seditious sticker yesterday. Why were they released? Because they are not Yemenite and are not involved in the campaign to investigate the disappearance of Yemenite children."

His request to place his clients "even under house arrest" was also rejected by the court.

IDF recommends end to force-feeding prisoners

EVELYN GORDON

THE Judge Advocate-General's Office has recommended canceling an army regulation which allows imprisoned soldiers to be force-fed, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel announced yesterday.

Currently, regulations state that any prisoner can be force-fed intravenously if, over the course of 48 hours, he has eaten less than the medical officer considers sufficient.

The association had requested cancellation of this order about three years ago, citing the case of a man who was in prison for refusing to do reserve duty, allegedly for reasons of conscience. The man went on a hunger strike,

and when the army threatened to force-feed him, he called ACRIL. The army decided not to force-feed the man, but ACRIL requested that the entire regulation be canceled.

Another regulation permits the army to give a soldier medical treatment against his will, if two doctors say it is necessary either to save his life or to prevent irreversible damage. This regulation is sufficient to allow force-feeding in cases of real medical necessity, ACRIL noted.

The 48-hour regulation, however, gives the army far too much power to interfere with a soldier's basic right to hunger strike, the association said.

Police bust large LSD ring in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

THE second biggest LSD bust in the nation's history was made this week in Jerusalem, police announced yesterday.

A cache of the some 2,000 LSD tablets with a street value of about NIS 200,000 was found in a hideout near the home of the main suspect in the case, 24-year-old Yael Cohen.

Cohen, who lives in the Gilo neighborhood, was remanded yesterday in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court. Police said she was not cooperating with investigators.

Cohen allegedly headed a gang

of drug dealers who would rent out pubs and auditoriums in Jerusalem for illicit drug parties frequented by hundreds of youths.

Police noted that most of the gang members, including another who has been arrested and was remanded yesterday, did not have previous criminal records.

The gang members carried cellular phones and beepers to help them in their "business," which also included hashish and cocaine. Several youths who purchased drugs from the gang were also detained and released on bail, police said.

Stormy weather to continue

DAVID RUDGE

SNOW fell on Mt. Hermon and parts of the upper reaches of the Golan Heights yesterday as rain, hail and thunderstorms swept as far south as Eilat.

The Meteorological Service said that sleet might fall in hilly central districts, including Jerusalem, today and tonight.

The cold, stormy weather is expected to last through the weekend.

The rain yesterday was heavy in places, but there were no reports of serious flooding. The rain is expected to strengthen today, increasing the risk of flooding in low-lying areas.

In Eilat, police urged motorists to take extra care because of the wet roads, while much of the North was covered in thick fog.

On the Golan, snow fell in Moshav Neveh Ativ and the Druse Villages Majdal Shams, Mas'ada and Bukata, as well as around Kibbutz Elrom, while hail accumulated on roads near Kibbutz Ein Zivan, making driving treacherous.

More than 30 cm. of fresh snow accumulated on the slopes of Mt. Hermon and the site was closed to visitors.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Some old-age homes unlicensed

The Health Ministry yesterday filed a complaint with police against three private geriatric institutions that have been operating in Jerusalem without a license. In the past, closure orders were issued against them, but they did not shut down.

They are Neveh Avot at 11 Rehov Nehemia, Neveh Gal at 32 Rehov Nikanor, and Beit Merima at 10 Sderot Herzl.

Inspectors said that in addition to being unlicensed, the institutions also had inadequate manpower and physical facilities to take care of their patients, some of them demented, who needed intensive nursing care. This, said the ministry, is a criminal offense.

Judy Siegel

Clinically dead man revived by MDA team

An Israel TV staffer who suffered clinical death in his car in a Jerusalem street was revived by a Magen David Adom ambulance team alerted by passersby. The man was transferred to a mobile intensive care unit (MICU) and rushed to Shaare Zedek Hospital.

The ambulance was on its way to a hospital with another patient when passersby on Rehov Ramban pointed out to the medic/driver, Ribbi Ibrahim, and medics Tamar Biter and Rahel Nahmani, that the man had collapsed in his car. They called an MICU to help and managed to restore his breathing and heartbeat.

Judy Siegel

Insurance firms must reveal investments

Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer yesterday ordered all life insurance companies to provide their policyholders a detailed report on their investments during 1995, and each year from now on. The report must be available by April 20.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Huge kidney tumor removed from toddler

A three-kilo cancerous tumor was removed from the abdomen of a two-and-a-half-year-old girl, who weighed only seven kilos after the unusual surgery at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital yesterday.

The girl, who immigrated from the CIS a few months ago with her parents, suffered from Wilm's tumor, a cancerous growth in the kidney that usually appears in young children. The child lost the other kidney in her native country. Now she has neither kidney, and must undergo dialysis until an organ for transplant becomes available.

The toddler is in good condition and will undergo chemotherapy as well as dialysis.

Judy Siegel

Agency: Gay olim as welcome as anyone

Israel does not consider homosexual immigrants undesirable, but will not make an effort to encourage gay Jews to come, Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, said Tuesday.

His remarks followed a complaint from a gay rights group that an agency official told a Jewish homosexual in Boston not to immigrate because gay life is easier in the US.

AP

Amir's appeal to delay trial rejected by court

RAINE MARCUS

THE Tel Aviv District Court rejected a petition by Yigal Amir yesterday to postpone his plea hearing for three months or until the Shamgar Commission releases its findings.

Amir's lawyer Jonathan Goldberg argued that his client "changes his version of events each day" and that conclusions reached by the commission may influence the case.

Goldberg also said he had not had sufficient time to study all the evidence and that other material in the hands of the District Attorney's Office had been deemed classified.

However, Judge Edmond Levy accused Goldberg of wasting the court's time and said he had ample time to prepare a defense. The Shamgar Commission has no hearing on Amir's trial, Levy added.

"The charges are quite clearly defined - murder and aggravated assault," said Levy. "The Shamgar Commission's investigation is totally irrelevant to the charges."

Levy ruled that defense lawyers had had sufficient time to scrutinize evidence. Regarding the classified evidence, Levy advised Goldberg to appeal to a higher court if there was a controversy over such information.

Goldberg also asked that Amir's trial not be held daily, but Levy rejected this request, arguing that other trials had been postponed to make way for this one.

Amir's trial is due to resume on Tuesday. The trial opened on December 19, when Levy read the charges, and then agreed to a defense request for more time to review the evidence before Amir entered his plea.

Bill would up sentence for privacy violations

EVELYN GORDON

THE maximum penalty for infringing on someone's privacy would be five years in prison instead of one, according to a change approved by the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

Infringing on someone's privacy includes actions such as seeking information about a man's personal affairs, making use of such information, giving such information to a third party, or

publishing a photograph of someone which is liable to embarrass him.

The new penalty is part of a government-sponsored bill which the committee is preparing for a second and third reading.

According to committee chairman Dedi Zuckerman (Meretz), the stiffer penalty was introduced to

make the punishment for general infringement on privacy equal to the penalty for wiretapping, which was recently increased from three to five years. Zuckerman explained that from the victim's point of view, the harm caused by wiretapping is no greater than that caused by other methods of infringing on his privacy, so there is no reason for the punishment to be different.

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Berlusconi on trial for corruption

MILAN (AP) - Silvio Berlusconi - former premier, business tycoon, soccer club owner - entered court as a defendant yesterday in a corruption trial just as he is waging a political comeback.

The media magnate who transformed Italian politics went on trial for allegedly bribing tax auditors reviewing the books of his Fininvest business empire.

The day was devoted to little more than procedural matters but it was the timing that mattered. The trial opening came two days before Berlusconi meets with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro on a way out of Italy's latest political crisis and with the prospect of possible elections in the near future.

When asked during a break whether the trial would affect his political fortunes, Berlusconi said, "I'm the victim of a political plot. I'm here to sustain my country. If the people believe me, it could even give me a boost," he said.

Berlusconi heads Italy's center-right coalition and is struggling to convince Italians that he is a better

alternative to govern than a center-left alliance dominated by the former Communists.

Also on trial are five business associates, including his brother Paolo. They are accused of paying 380 million lire (NIS 710,000) in bribes to tax inspectors reviewing Berlusconi's Fininvest empire.

Five tax inspectors are on trial accused of accepting bribes.

On arrival, Berlusconi looked at reporters crammed inside a cell built into the courtroom's side, smiled broadly and said, "Finally you're in your place!"

Wearing a gray double-breasted suit, Berlusconi sat squeezed between two attorneys. He took notes and occasionally massaged the bridge of his nose.

Unexpectedly for the media mogul that he is, Berlusconi sought to bar live television coverage of the trial. His lawyer argued it would turn the case into a spectacle and influence witnesses.

Judge Carlo Crivelli agreed, but permitted TV cameras to tape proceedings, and allowed live radio

broadcast and photographers in the courtroom.

Berlusconi, whose empire includes Italy's three largest private television stations and the Milan soccer team, granted permission to being videotaped. Italian defendants have the right to refuse.

"I have a personal interest, as a political personage, that people be allowed to judge me," he said.

Berlusconi won March 1994 elections and became premier but was undone after seven months when an ally pulled out of his coalition amid charges against Berlusconi of conflict of interest that are still unresolved.

In the months before the election he formed the Forza Italia ("Let's Go, Italy") party to fill a vacuum created by the fall of Italy's traditional parties. Berlusconi's traditional parties center parties from a corruption scandal that has implicated more than 3,000 politicians, business people and government officials.

Those cases were spearheaded by the "Clean Hands" team now prosecuting Berlusconi.



A Mi24 helicopter gunship fires an air-to-surface rocket on a house in the village of Pervomayskoye as Russian forces mounted an all-out attack against the Chechen rebels holding hostages there. The Russians decided to attack after concluding that the remaining hostages in rebel hands had been executed. (Reuter)

Chechen rebels step up attacks

RUSSIAN troops yesterday launched a withering assault with Grad rockets to wipe out Chechen rebels holed up in a southern village after abandoning hope of freeing any more hostages.

Hundreds of km away, another group of rebels threatened to blow up a Black Sea ferry with nearly 200 people on board unless the fighting stops.

"The decision has been taken to conclude the operation," Alexander Mikhailov, spokesman for the Russian attack force, said as three trucks carrying Grad rocket launchers took up positions just three km from Pervomayskoye.

After two days of bombarding Pervomayskoye with artillery and helicopter-fired rockets, the Russians yesterday fired salvo after salvo from the powerful Grads on the village near the border of breakaway Chechnya.

The seizure of the ferry at the Turkish port of Trabzon marked the first time the Chechen war spread outside Russia's borders.

The gunmen promised to free some of their captives but warned they would destroy the 3,838-tonne *Avrasya* if there were any rescue attempt.

"We've all got four kilos of explosives strapped to our chests," one hijacker said by telephone from the vessel in the stormy sea.

"That's enough to blow up both us and the whole boat," the gunman, who identified himself only as Abrek, said, speaking in Turkish.

Turkey's national police chief has ruled out an immediate rescue bid. Predominantly Moslem Turkey sympathizes with Chechnya's desire for independence, but has kept a low profile to avoid harming relations with Russia.

"This is a warning to Yeltsin," the hijacker's leader told independent Turkish television Channel D. Trabzon governor Alaadin Yuksek identified him as Muhammad Tokcan, a Turkish national.

Turkish Interior Minister Teoman Unusan told the independent ATV channel that Tokcan had fought with Chechen rebels.

"We have decided where to leave some of the hostages but we will announce it when we get there," Abrek said. He gave no indication of how many hostages might be freed or whether they would include Russians.

Port authorities said earlier the hijackers might be prepared to release some captives at the coastal town of Sinop.

"We gather from the radio communications between the coast and the boat that they are going to stop...and release some of the hostages and then continue to Istanbul," Hasan Cetin, a port official in the town of Samsun, said.

Cetin said some hostages would be freed at Sinop port, 160 km west of Samsun, in what could be the first step toward resolving the day-old, slow-moving hostage drama.

In the Chechen capital Grozny, gunmen also seized about 30 workers at an electric power plant according to the ITAR-Tass news agency. They were taken away to an unidentified location and the search for them continued yesterday.

Seeking to justify their assault on Pervomayskoye, the Russians yesterday reiterated claims the Chechens were executing the hostages they have held for a week.

"Because the situation is becoming more complicated, we have decided to conclude the operation," said Maj. Gen. Alexander Mikhailov, a spokesman for the Federal Security Service, a successor to the KGB.

Asked about the fate of the hostages, he said, "We have little hope for them."

The rebels are believed to be holding between 70 and 120 hostages, the last of an estimated 3,000 hostages seized Jan. 9.

Helicopter gunships rocketed Pervomayskoye and round after round of punishing artillery shells struck the village, which was a smoking ruin. Rockets capable of leveling the village were fired from Grad rocket-launchers.

Despite fighting involving dozens of tanks and armored vehicles backed by several battalions of shock troops, Russian forces ap-

NATO seizes Bosnia airfield

SARAJEVO (Reuter) - French legionnaires in armored cars and tanks seized control of a government airfield near Sarajevo in an operation designed to show that NATO rules the roost in Bosnia.

With the approach of this weekend's vital deadline for the establishment of zones of separation between Bosnia's former warring factions, NATO officials were confident yesterday that their targets were being met.

The US, British and French contingents of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) reported wide compliance by Serbs, Moslems and Croats in mine-clearing and troop withdrawals from the separation zones.

NATO officials said more than 100 French legionnaires in 16 armored vehicles and tanks swept past Bosnian government soldiers to enter the Visoko airstrip in central Bosnia on Monday morning.

The operation was launched after IFOR troops had twice been refused admittance to the airfield

in contravention of the Dayton peace agreement under which NATO forces have the right to go where they wish.

There have long been rumors that the Moslem-led army was using the airfield for secret arms supply flights but this was never substantiated.

NATO officials said the French found nothing unusual when they arrived at the airfield but would be maintaining a presence there.

NATO spokesman Colonel Mark Rayner told reporters the commander of alliance forces in Bosnia, Admiral Leighton Smith, visited the Visoko airstrip, 20 km northwest of Sarajevo, on Tuesday and had been impressed with the French operation.

NATO sources said the French would use the airfield in the event of an emergency where they could not land at Sarajevo airport, which lies close to volatile Serb-held suburbs due to revert to government control under the peace plan.

Rayner said US and British troops supervising mine clearance and troop withdrawals in

zones of separation throughout Bosnia had reported good compliance.

The Bosnian government took a tough new line on the dispute over the release of prisoners of war yesterday, putting itself on a collision course with NATO.

NATO and the Red Cross insist that the former warring parties must release all remaining civilian and military prisoners by a deadline of this Friday and that they will be violating the Bosnian peace agreement if they do not.

The Bosnian government has effectively blocked plans for a mass release this week, insisting that several thousand Moslems not accounted for on prisoner lists are in Serb hands.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohamed Sacirbey told a news conference: "It is humanely impossible, immoral to forget about these few thousand...it is bargaining with human life."

He insisted the Serbs, not the government, were the ones who could be violating the peace agreement and undermining stability by keeping those unaccounted for.

Clinton still has edge over Dole in US polls

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - Recent polls show Democratic President Bill Clinton holds an edge of five to 10 points over Senate Republican Majority Leader Bob Dole, his likely presidential challenger. But each has big problems.

Half a dozen polls this year have produced some conflicting data, perhaps indicating the volatility of public opinion as Clinton battles the Republicans in Congress over a balanced budget.

But Clinton's approval ratings generally hover in the high 40s or low 50s while his disapproval level is stuck in the mid-40 range.

The return of furloughed federal government workers to their jobs last week after a tem-

porary truce in the budget stalemate appears to have helped Clinton a little, pollsters say. But his failure to expand his support suggests he will have no room at all for error in his reelection campaign.

Clinton is unopposed for renomination in his own party and has breathing room not enjoyed by Dole and his Republican rivals, who will fight it out for convention delegate slots in preference votes starting next month.

Even so, the president must gird himself for Republican attacks that will intensify as their own nomination fight proceeds.

Dole leads eight other Republicans, but he still lags Clinton in one-on-one trial matchups and his disapproval ratings are just as high as the president's.

Political activists all over the country suggest Dole's support is broad but not particularly deep.

Then there is a surge for millionaire publisher Steve Forbes, who has shot into second place nationally and is even challenging Dole in a couple of states like Arizona and Delaware.

Forbes has spent over \$12 million of his personal fortune, much of it on television advertisements attacking Dole and promoting Forbes' concept of a flat income tax rate for all.

Sheikh Omar ready for sentencing by Manhattan court

NEW YORK (AP) - Concrete barriers went up in front of the federal courthouse in Manhattan in advance of the sentencing of 10 terror conspirators and one last message from their leader, Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman.

A dozen police officers - twice the usual complement - patrolled outside and two bomb-sniffing dogs instead of just one went through the courthouse with federal agents yesterday morning.

There were no problems as the hearing began with Victor Alvarez, 29, sentenced to 35 years in prison. Alvarez was portrayed during the nine-month trial as a borderline retarded man from a broken family, but Judge Michael Mukasey was unmoved.

"Forgive me if it sounds cold-hearted, but people who are killed by people with limited capacity are just as dead as people killed by geniuses," Mukasey said.

Alvarez proclaimed his innocence: "I am not a crazy man. I never knew of any plot to bomb anything in the United States. This is my country."

His sentencing indicated that each defendant can expect the maximum 20 years on the most serious count, seditious conspiracy.

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The cost of the seminar includes tour bus from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and return, admission to all lectures, use of guest house facilities, twice daily bus to the sulphur baths, half-board per person in a double room, etc. etc.

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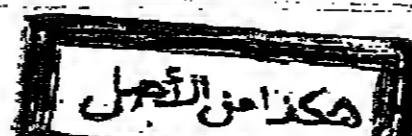
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ruption
airfield

Fashion for sale at a pictorial dep't store

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

EVERYONE who owns a credit card has already been introduced to catalog shopping. The catalogs distributed by credit-card companies are virtually pictorial department stores in which prices are often higher than those charged by shopkeepers for identical merchandise.

For those who have neither the time nor the patience for the foot-slogging involved in shopping, the catalogs are a real boon, even if the goods may be a little dearer.

Deliveries to your front door at times to suit your convenience are well worth the extra outlay to some people, especially since you can return the goods if you're not satisfied.

Specialty catalogs featuring only one or two categories of merchandise are relatively new in Israel, but now that Yoni Saar, owner of Kent fashions, has set the ball rolling, others will no doubt follow.

While acknowledging that smoking may not be politically correct, Saar, who heads his own direct marketing company, notes that the brand names of major cigarette companies such as Marlboro and Camel also project a lifestyle. Which is why he bought the name of Kent to help promote his newest direct marketing venture—the sale of fashion and furniture through catalogs.

Inaugurated last week in conjunction with a photo and fashion contest at the Design Gallery in Tel Aviv, the catalog features Tollman's furniture along with clothes by 13 Israeli designers, whose creations were displayed on live models, sitting alone or in groups of two, three and four on individual stands.

There was a good mix of sum-



Pant suits available from Comme Il Faut's wide range of clean design garments.

mer and winter garments, plus a variety of styles to cater to different tastes and lifestyles. Thus the very young might have been attracted by Rinat Golan's see-through plastic battle-dress jacket and skirted white maillot, while the more sophisticated business-executive would have gone for Hagara's dramatic black hostess gown with the slim fitting sleeves and high collar rising to the tip of the jaw line.

However, the outfit which won the contest was a pants suit by Carole Godia of Comme Il Faut. Featuring an embossed blue-black velvet jacket over black wool pants, it was sufficiently casual to wear to a sports match and sufficiently formal to grace a dress-up affair.

Godia, a French Canadian who has been living in Israel for 12 years, is noted for her mini-

malist approach and her elegance of line.

Saar, 32, who is mailing out 10,000 catalogs initially, is giving himself a make-or-break year in which to test the waters. Based on market research, he expects to do his best business outside of the major urban areas. People who live in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem have easy access to clothes by the country's leading designers, he says. But those who live in peripheral areas have a much more limited choice, which will now be broadened through the catalogs.

Despite a nation-wide campaign against smoking, Saar obviously knew what he was doing when he chose to use the name of a cigarette company. Most of the several hundred people attending the inauguration were smoking—and a lot of them were smoking Kents.

Car tracking the high-tech way

Two firms are testing tracking devices that may help policemen in their search for car thieves, Raine Marcus writes

HIGH-TECH car tracking systems may be a favored solution for the future in tracing stolen vehicles, according to both police officers and insurance companies.

Two companies — Ituran and Nexus — are presently testing computerized tracking devices. They claim the tracking devices will help insurance companies save money, policemen catch thieves and victims get their cars back, undamaged and quickly. The police are also testing Ituran's device on a pilot basis.

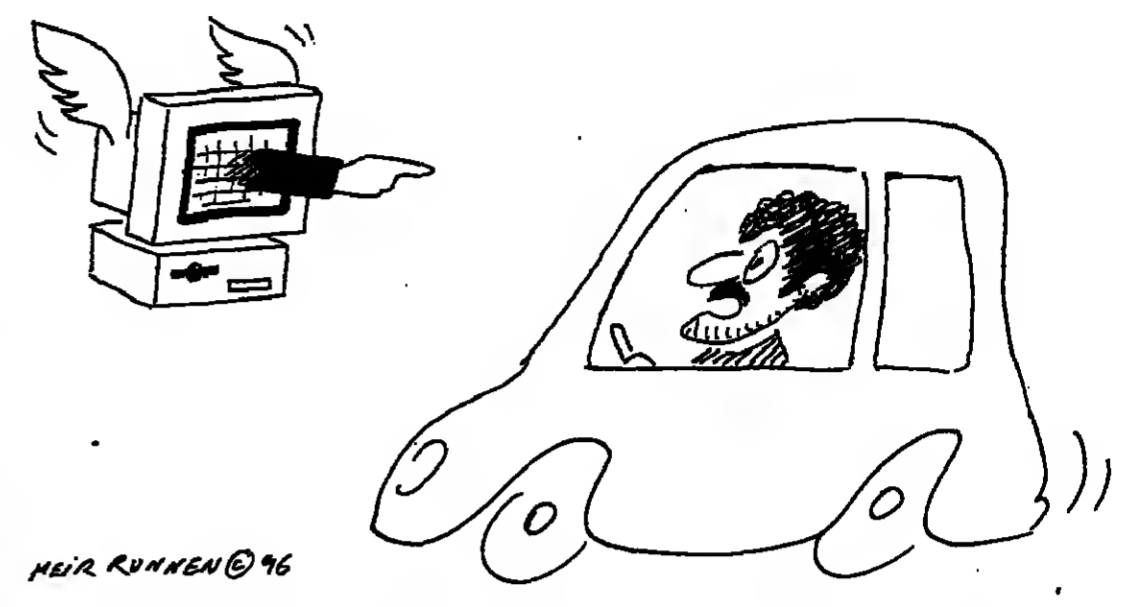
Over the past seven years, \$150 million has been invested, both here and in the US, to develop Ituran's device.

Ituran is aiming to market the device to some 300,000 subscribers, both commercial and private.

Ituran, previously owned by Tadiran and an American company, was recently bought by several Israelis who named former deputy GSS chief Gideon Ezra as its managing director.

Ezra is more open about his company's aims and costs than are Nexus officials, who only say they have developed the product and aim to produce a technically comparable "if not better" item at a lower cost by cutting back on expenses and luxurious control rooms.

"Here we do the actual hard work, based on technical know-how and research," says physicist Hanoch Yokey, deputy managing director of Nexus.



A Nexus subsidiary, Eden Telecom, is already selling the device abroad, though further testing must be done for it to be approved here. Eden has sold the tracking device, together with a two-way pager, to Australia, according to Eden Managing Director Eyal Katz.

Ezra estimates that Ituran's device—with its alarm, remote control and other features—will cost the private car owner around \$800. But if the correct alarm systems are already installed, then an Ituran device may cost the driver only \$500, plus an additional \$7.50 monthly subscription fee.

"Insurance companies may be able to conceive a way of halving the cost of Ituran against drivers' premiums," Ezra suggests.

Katz, who was loath to reveal specifics, reckons Nexus's device will cost less. Its system is presently being tested on a fleet of company vehicles.

ITURAN'S TRACKING device is actually several devices hidden in the vehicle and controlled from a central place where computerized maps show each vehicle's location.

When an automobile is broken into, the devices inside it send a

signal to the computer room that an illegal entry has occurred, Ezra explains. Ituran's technicians immediately contact the vehicle's owner to ensure that it has actually been stolen and then call the police to inform them of the vehicle's precise location.

"Some remote control unlocking devices may be used by thieves at random," Ezra explains. "For instance, a thief with a stolen set of keys can walk into a parking lot and just by operating the remote system open the relevant car door. With Ituran's remote device, this cannot happen."

Ituran's tracking device may also be helpful to companies with large fleets of vehicles.

Nexus's tracking device is similar but based on different technology, Katz says. However, to the untrained eye, on screen, their systems look the same.

"All our personnel has background in IDF engineering and we have developed our product over a four-year period, especially tailored to Israeli needs," he adds. "Although we export our two-way pager and other systems, the car tracking device is for use here."

Ezra says he is fully aware of the increase in thefts as the Pales-

tinian autonomy gains more authority. Although the Israeli police no longer has authority to enter areas ruled by the Palestinians, Ezra intends to catch the thief long before he leaves Israeli jurisdiction.

"Our aim is to keep the thief in the car as long as possible so that police or another party can arrest him and retrieve the car," Ezra says. "The thief is not supposed to know that an Ituran device has been fitted. We want to be in a situation whereby the thief does not know which system has been installed."

Both Nexus and Ituran can be fitted with an optional distress button in the case of car-jacking or if the driver breaks down or loses his way.

Ituran representatives have appeared before the Internal Security Ministry's inter-ministerial Lapidot committee, set up to examine ways to reduce the number of auto thefts.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shaiha has said that he is in favor of such systems provided there are no legal problems, such as an invasion of privacy.

Ezra counters that Ituran's tracking device is activated only when an illegal entry has taken place.

Where there's smoke there's no quiet

WHILE renovating her home, L.K. purchased an exhaust fan from Built-In Kitchen Appliances, Ltd., the Israeli representative of Germany's Gaggenau.

According to her new plans, the kitchen and living-room area of her Ra'anana house would be a loft-like open space with no walls or other room dividers. As the stove would be far from a window, cooking odors would be a problem. The solution — an electric exhaust fan — posed an additional problem: noise.

L.K. spent months poring over brochures and visiting appliance showrooms before deciding to buy a Gaggenau product. BIKA's marketing manager Ami Greenberg assisted her in selecting a NIS 5,000 model, assuring her that its powerful motor and "barely audible" hum would be perfectly suited to her special needs. L.K. wrote a check. This was in October 1994.

Throughout the construction of her new kitchen, BIKA's technician advised L.K.'s contractor on the placement and installation of the fan, which she had been told to install only according to Gaggenau's specifications. Technical glitches during installation were corrected a few times, and BIKA's technician finally gave the "thumbs up" sign. This was in June 1995.

When L.K. turned on the fan for the first time, sounds of a "747 during takeoff" filled the room preventing "normal conversation anywhere in the house," L.K. notified Greenberg, who sent the technician to investigate. The technician readjusted "sloppy joint connections" and repaired a hole in the exhaust pipe. This was in July.

But the fan wailed on. Again L.K. notified

CAVEAT EMPTOR!
RUTHIE BLUM

BIKA. She was told the problem was "under investigation." In August, she was told to "wait until Mr. Greenberg returns from Germany, where he will consult with Gaggenau directly." This trip lasted the entire month of September.

In October, a different technician arrived at L.K.'s home to hear what the fuss was about. (According to L.K., this expert didn't even know where to locate the on-off switch.) His diagnosis: noise level appropriate; exhaust pipe too small.

L.K. begged Greenberg to come and hear the noise for himself, or at least to send an acoustical engineer to arbitrate. After many more phone calls, he agreed. Two weeks later, he phoned to say: "After consultation with Gaggenau and the technician, we have decided not to send an engineer." (It would cost the firm at least NIS 1,000 to do so.)

He further stated that if the noise level is excessive "it is because the exhaust pipe is too small and the vent covering inappropriate." L.K. reminded him that the installation had been performed in cooperation with a BIKA technician.

"He quit some time ago," Greenberg replied, "and is not available to confirm or deny this."

In November, Greenberg defended his position, insisting that the installation of the appliance was not carried out according to com-

pany specifications.

"Nevertheless," he stressed, "we are doing everything in our power to rectify the situation. At great expense to our firm, we are going to remove the vent from L.K.'s home and have it examined at a laboratory. If it is defective, we will replace it. If faulty installation is the culprit, that too will be corrected."

In December, Greenberg arrived at L.K.'s home, accompanied by BIKA's general manager Jackie Veiniger. After listening and measuring, the duo declared that the fan would have to be taken to a laboratory for thorough testing.

"When?" L.K. asked.

"Soon," they replied.

"Fax me a date," she insisted.

"No problem," they said.

When no fax arrived a week later, L.K. phoned again. The secretary apologized profusely, said that her boss was bedridden with flu and promised a swift response. (The next day, she faxed L.K. a note from Greenberg.)

It is now January 1996. L.K.'s electric exhaust fan has never been used. In contrast, her phone and fax machine have been working overtime.

BIKA's current promise to take action is not deterring L.K. from taking some action of her own. Having told her story to the press, she now plans on telling it to a Small Claims Court judge.

You are invited to ask questions or offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

The discovery of a 'royal city' in the sky

IN time exposures focused for days on an obscure dot in the universe, the Hubble Space Telescope photographed the faintest stars and galaxies ever seen — some four billion times dimmer than what is visible to the naked eye.

"Most of these galaxies have never been seen before," said Robert Williams, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Just how old the galaxies are has not been determined yet. They could be the most distant, and hence the oldest, ever detected, he said.

"In archeological terms, it is similar to finding a royal city, but we don't have the dates yet," he said. "We don't know yet if we are seeing the most distant objects or not."

A report on the just-completed deep-space survey was delivered Monday to the national meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Williams said the finding was released quickly so the world's astronomers could immediately

begin studying the data, described by some as "the astronomical equivalent of the Dead Sea Scrolls."

To gather the views, the Hubble Space Telescope was aimed at a specific target and captured light for 10 consecutive days.

The target was a point in the sky near the handle of the Big Dipper, a part of the universe continuously in view of the orbiting space telescope.

Seen from the Earth, the target was very small, "about the size of a large grain of sand held at arm's length," Williams said. To ground telescopes, the area seemed basically a blank part of the sky. Yet the long exposure revealed at least 1,500 galaxies in various stages of formation.

The study is rather like taking a core sample of the Earth. Such a sample would have many layers of dirt and rock laid down over millions of years. In the celestial core sample, what is captured are views of stars and galaxies ranging farther and farther into the universe and increasingly distant. Some images could be from galaxies formed within a billion years of the beginning of the universe, but Williams said this will require detailed analysis to determine.

"It's like looking down a long tube and seeing all the galaxies along that line of sight," said Mark Dickinson, a member of the Hubble Space Telescope team. "They're all stacked up against one another in this picture, and the challenge now is to disentangle them."

Some of the galaxies are "things we haven't seen before," said Andrew Fruchter, another Hubble team member. There are elliptical shapes and spirals. Some are like beach balls and footballs. Others are long, cigar-shaped clusters of stars.

A key question the study might answer is how galaxies are formed. These star groups are found throughout the universe. Astronomers so far do not understand how many billions of stars can come together to form a single cluster like the Milky Way, a spiral galaxy that includes the Earth's sun. (AP)

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Terrorism as usual

IT was only the fatalities in Tuesday's terrorist attack which made it different from several others. Terrorist assaults - mostly ambushes of vehicles moving in Israeli-controlled zones in Judea, Samaria and Gaza - have been occurring ever since the army started its withdrawal from Arab population centers.

Even on Tuesday, the ambush near Hebron was not the only incident: two cases of hostile fire were reported by soldiers guarding Israeli villages in Gaza and patrolling the Egyptian border. The day before, an Israeli was shot and wounded in Bethlehem by the radical PLO faction, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. While the frequency and intensity of terrorist attacks may have diminished in past months as a result of the Hamas-Fatah negotiations, there have been close to 20 incidents in which firearms were involved. Only sheer luck kept casualties relatively low and, until Tuesday, with no fatalities.

It is more than likely that the liquidation of the Hamas arch-terrorist Yihye Ayyash will be cited as a pretext for the latest killing. The Islamists will surely exploit the lust for revenge expressed so universally throughout the territories.

But for Israel the more pertinent fact is that the terrorists are finding convenient and secure refuge in areas controlled by the Palestinian Police. Clearly, the Palestinian Authority has no intention to combat, let alone suppress the military arm of the Islamic groups. As Chief of Army Intelligence Maj-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon put it on Tuesday, the PA has made no real effort to dismantle the Hamas military infrastructure. As a result, the Islamist armed forces are growing, developing and improving.

Ya'alon believes Arafat may be keeping the terrorist card as a bargaining chip in the final-status talks - which is a polite way of saying that Hamas is fulfilling the function of the shooting arm in the negotiations while the PA does the talking. And Prime Minister Shimon Peres's predictable response to the latest attack - his assertion yet again that it will not affect the peace process - can only encourage such division of labor between the PA and Hamas. Nor does either body take too seriously his warning that Israel expects the PA to act more vigorously against terrorists.

One can only hope that President Ezer Weizman, who on Tuesday gave in the German parliament the most eloquent and moving Zionist speech ever delivered by an Israeli statesman, will be able to persuade the government that a hasty withdrawal and a stubborn clinging to a flawed deal do not always bode peace.

Rounding off the corners

THE European Union's monetary affairs commissioner said this week that the start date for the EU monetary union is fixed, and he does not consider discussions about a possible delay to be useful. Such a statement will do nothing to convince European voters that Brussels does not remain a joggernaut of arrogance. It appears the mandarins of the union headquarters have learned little from the widespread revolt against the Maastricht Treaty, or from the more recent mini-revolution by the workers of France.

Most committed Europeans sincerely believe that the idealistic goal of a more integrated Europe is a good thing. But more and more of the continent's citizens are questioning the unseemly haste with which Brussels has been attempting to bulldoze through vast changes to the social, economic and political structures of the nation states without properly consulting those concerned.

The European Commission at humble pie offer several countries - most importantly Britain - came close to rejecting the Maastricht Treaty that converted the European Community into the European Union. The commissioners appeared to accept the accusations of high-handedness and arrogance with which they offered Europeans the treaty with a "sign up or else" attitude. "Devolution" became the fashionable buzzword - an acceptance of the principle that the bigger the EU machine becomes, the more power must be devolved back to states, regions and even provinces, if the voters are not to be made feel their concerns are being devoured by an Orwellian monster in the making.

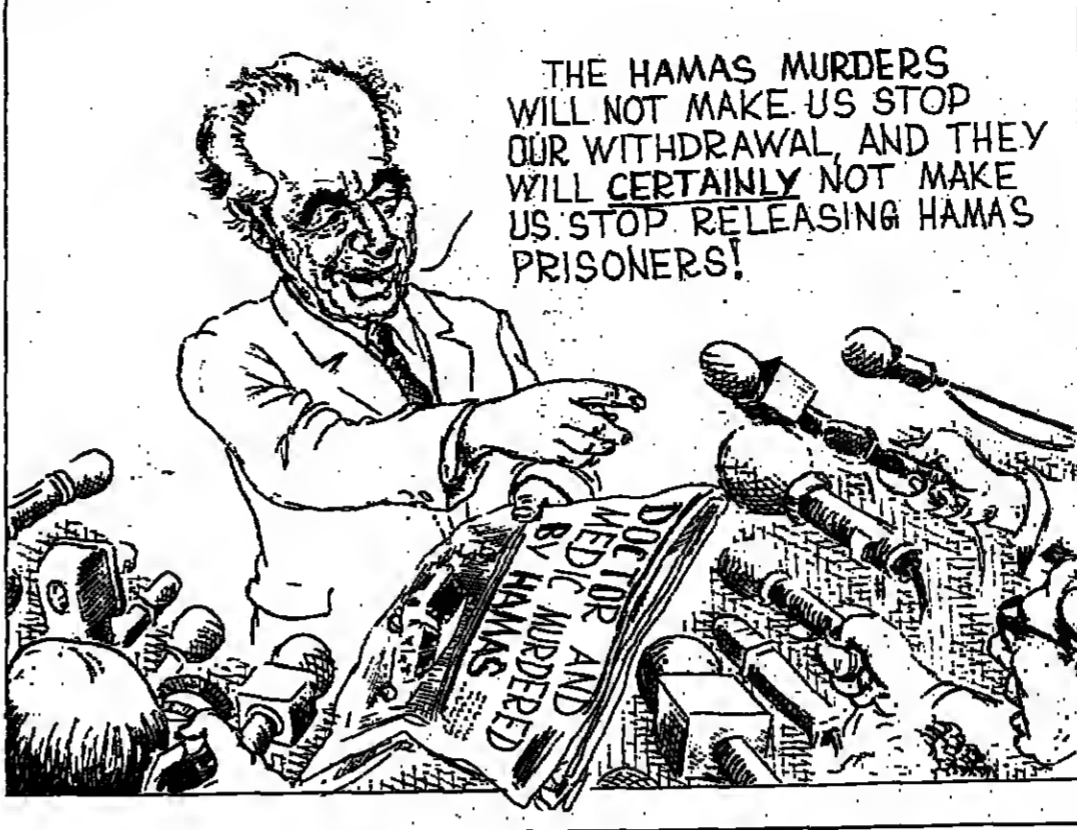
The former Yugoslavia should have taught the EU bureaucrats a lesson. Europeans may be developing a pan-European identity and a taste for open borders, an end to tariffs, and the benefits of free market trade and a high-earnings economy. But they most certainly are not developing a taste for bureaucracy, homogeneity, or anonymity. If anything, cultural diversity is growing, and it makes sense.

In a world where cities, hotels, airports, offices, cars and even homes look as if they are being designed by one super-computer with limited imagination, individuals and groups strive even more for a sense of what makes them different as humans, nations, and cultures.

When Britain and Ireland decimalized their currencies in the 1960s, there was more uproar about the lost cultural associations of pounds, shillings and pence than there was rejoicing over the superior convenience of the decimal system. Even greater resistance was apparent with metrication. Ordinary Britons simply loved the loopy historical threads that stretched back from their inconvenient and incomprehensible roods, perches, chains, furlongs, ounces, pints, and miles.

The European Union is now showing gross insensitivity as the whole continent grumbles over the coming of the "euro" coin - a name that smacks of the lowest possible common denominator of imagination for the currency of the most imaginative continent of nations history ever produced. The Brussels bureaucrats should not become complacent simply because the French, for the moment, have become quiet again. Nor should they be surprised that the inevitable next revolts against their attempts to neatly round off the cultural corners of the continent will spread far beyond the borders of France.

0665 96



Ezer, the proud Jew

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

AS President Weizman's Israel Air Force Boeing entered Czech air space, two MIG fighters came streaking by as a guard of honor. They were so close, you could see the pilots' faces. Proud of his aeronautical knowledge, an aide said: "They're MIG-21s."

The president peered out intently, and said: "Go and check. They're MiG-23s." In a slight huff, the aide went off to make enquiries. He returned, red-faced.

"I'm half your age, but your eyes are better than mine," he told Weizman.

Weizman grinned and told a writer of this column accompanying his European trip: "Of course I know one MIG from another. Everybody forgets I was once commander of the Israel Air Force. I remember vividly two pilots, one from Iraq, and one from Syria, who at different times sought asylum in Israel with their MIGs."

For Weizman the airman, the return to Prague was a moving experience. He wanted to say thank you to the Czech people for the invaluable aid their country gave Israel when it faced the onslaught of its Arab neighbors in 1948, when it declared independence.

Weizman met the colonel who showed him the technique of flying the Nazi Messerschmitts the Czechs gave Israel for its fledgling air force in the hour of greatest need. "We'll never forget how you helped us then when we were alone in the world," said Weizman.

"It took us a couple of days to get used to the Nazi planes," the president told this column. "It was one of the great ironies of all time."

"There I was, wearing German flying boots, a German helmet, and staring at the cockpit controls in German. I had flown a RAF Spitfire in the 1939-45 war. Now we were fighting air battles against British air force Spitfires with our Messerschmitts. And, as you know, we shot them out of the sky."

Yet it was clear that Weizman hadn't come to Prague merely on a sentimental whim. True, he was proud of his skills as navigator and pilot. But he sees himself playing a greater role than ever before as a navigator for the Jews, for Judaism and Zionism.

As we sat together in the ancient Altmuschel, home of the Golem, for over two hours, emotion ran deep as Weizman prayed and joined in reverently with the

believed that Jordan was murdered either by the KGB, or else by the PLO, which had a free hand at the time in Prague.

"We want to develop strong economic, cultural and other ties with you," Weizman was told repeatedly. The Czechs are searching for the list of surviving Jews drawn up by the communists. This will help many youngsters there who believe they have Jewish roots.

The two presidents grew genuinely close to each other during the short visit. Havel did his utmost to show Weizman everything he and his officials could think of which had a Jewish connection.

Said one of the guides: "It is so evident that your president really cares for everything that pertains to the Jews. We knew of him as a great airman. I heard from his former instructor, whom he met earlier after all these years, that Weizman mastered flying German planes in record time. He was here with other Israeli pilots to learn to use the Messerschmitts after the end of the war in Europe."

"Now it's clear that he's playing a far greater role in navigating the Jewish people. When I guide Jewish tourists, although I'm not a Jew, I try to show them the rich heritage of the Jews, who played such an important role in Czech life before the Holocaust. I'm often astonished at their lack of knowledge and interest in their own heritage and culture."

In Prague, and more so in Germany, Weizman showed how passionately he believes in Zionism.

Saying how shocked he was to see Jews living there, he urged them repeatedly to come and fulfill their destiny in Israel.

German Jewish leader Ignatz Bubis told us that after he criticized Weizman for calling on all Jews to emigrate, the president cut him short to ask sharply: "Do they ever call you a rotten Jew here?" Replied Bubis: "Yes."

Retorted Weizman, witheringly, "They do it in Berlin, in Leipzig, in London's Whitechapel too."

The words of the Czech guide rang powerfully in our ears: "Your president is an inspiration. You feel that his love for his Jewishness and his country springs from his heart. Truly he is a proud Jew."

The writers are authors of The Messias: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

REPEATEDLY Weizman gave the impression of relishing his new role of championing all things Jewish.

He was reminded of the way the Czechs were sacrificed on the altar.

Weizman was a great airman. But he is a greater navigator of his people

of a false promise of peace nearly 60 years ago, when Neville Chamberlain sold the country to Adolf Hitler.

He declined to make any comparison with today's situation in Israel - or to comment on the storm he raised when he advised Yitzhak Rabin not to rush the peace process with Yasser Arafat.

When the issue of the Middle East cropped up, Weizman said: "Trust in God, and keep your powder dry. Can you cope with that?" he asked the Czech translator. "Yes, Sir," came the reply. "Oliver Cromwell, 1658."

At Theresienstadt, Weizman remained mute in the place where thousands of Jews were tortured and put to death under Nazi rule. Sensing his mood, Czech president Vaclav Havel repeatedly assured Weizman that he is striving to strengthen relations between Israel and Prague. "There were many antisemitic things done here by the communists. We want to right the injustices where we can," he said.

Havel was referring particularly to the mysterious "suicide" of Charles Jordan, vice chairman of the American Joint Distribution Committee, who was found drowned in the Vltava river in 1967. Czech authorities are finally investigating the affair. It is widely

Chicks' corps

ESTHER HERTZOG

WHWO needs the IDF Women's Corps? When Ehud Barak was appointed chief of staff, he announced his intention to disband the corps and incorporate women into other army units. Shin, the organization for women's equality, expressed support, calling for full and equal representation of women throughout the army.

But women's organizations like Na'amat and the Israel Women's Network, joined by several senior ex-officers of the Women's Corps, began an all-out counter-campaign. The corps, they claimed, partially compensated for the grave discrimination against women in the IDF. It worked to combat their exploitation and the abuse of their rights.

That was five years ago, and the corps is still intact. And the situation of women soldiers is no better. Sexual discrimination in the IDF is still what it was; sexual exploitation is routine. And as a recent article in Ha'ir made clear, nothing has changed about women's unofficial army role as "chicks," there for the officers' pleasure.

When the army economizes, which is the first group to suffer? Women soldiers. An example: the canceling of shooting practice for most women soldiers when ranges are closed down. Explained a senior army representative: "There's no reason for a woman serving in the center of the country to know how to shoot." In other words, women are "soldiers, kind of," but not the real thing.

The claim of the army's "concern" for the safety of women soldiers was laughably exploded yet again in the wake of the redeployment from Nahal, when women soldiers were despatched to clean buildings left by the IDF for the Palestinian Authority, in conditions of serious physical danger, surrounded by a dense and violent Palestinian population.

In other words, it isn't genuine concern for women that motivates army chiefs and government leaders to prevent their integration in combat units and elsewhere in the IDF. Their real motive is to perpetuate the women's role as providers of secretarial and cleaning services, decoration, and sex.

AGAINST this background, the Women's Corps aids the IDF's exploitation of women soldiers by maintaining a kind of sexual apartheid. The army "buys" the cooperation of women officers for a handful of promotions. And it has pulled the wool over the eyes of the women's organizations, which supposedly fight for women's status.

No organization, Women's Corps officer or retired officer spoke up last year when a woman soldier was degraded in front of her entire army base by the distribution of a cassette showing her having sex with her boyfriend.

The soldier, despairing of any action by the army, turned to the press, which ran the story. Not even then was this followed by a sensational "exposure" of the woman's morals by the boyfriend's brother. Did the IDF deign to comment on the incident.

Esther Eilam of the Feminist Movement and myself, representing Shin, approached Barak and demanded that he make a thorough investigation of the incident. Finally, a few weeks ago, the offender was sentenced to a mere month in prison, following plea bargaining. Again, there was no comment from the Women's Corps.

A lieutenant colonel is currently retiring from the army because of sexual harassment, and the silence is deafening. A woman soldier who accused four soldiers of rape was immediately treated as the guilty party. The women's organizations and Women's Corps officers had nothing to say.

The Women's Corps does not promote women's interests in the army. Those who achieve senior IDF posts do so without its help, perhaps despite it.

The corps is a liability. It should have been disbanded long ago.

Sex objects and secretaries. That's how the IDF wants to keep its women

The writer lectures on sociology and anthropology at Beit Berl College in Kfar Sava.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- VALUES**

Sir, - I was born, bred and educated in England. With no few pangs, I set aside Peter Pan, etc., but not Descartes, and opted for Kibbutz Lavi. I further opted to educate my children in the National Religious framework. It was with some surprise, therefore, that I read your reporter's account of Lord Jakobovits's address to the Israel Forum.

I totally reject the call for the type of soul-searching he advocates. I shall continue to walk with my knitted-kippa bedecked family and friends with the same ease as I walk with bareheaded friends and acquaintances.

We live here in a loud-mouthed, gun-toting society, but that will not prevent me from evaluating one's role in the divine covenant that is to be enacted here - not anywhere else. Baruch Goldstein made me ashamed to be a member of the same human race. He did not obliterate from my mind the relationship between the Patriarchs and Kiryat Arba.

TVision has denied us the right of instant comment, but I am not living in the market place of Ancient Greece. I don't want a murderous, insolent, gum-chewing face thrust into mine on news bulletins, but I don't associate it with any educational system. I don't denigrate Cambridge because of Burgess and Philby.

Happy is the man who has all the educational answers. I certainly haven't. Happy is the man who knows exactly what are "traditional priorities." In the cacophony of today's world of instant Internet, super-highway and global village perceptions, it is no mean feat to walk humbly with one's God. I try to do this in the shrinking land of Israel with no apologies for having at least endeavored to interpret the divine imperatives at this particular point in time.

SHEILA KRITZLER
Kibbutz Lavi.
- TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

Sir, - Kol hakavod to D'vora Ben Shaul for her article, "A dog's life" (January 7), in which she indicates several examples of the mistreatment of animals. Israelis should be especially concerned because of Judaism's powerful teachings related to the proper treatment of animals. Moses and King David were considered suitable for leadership roles because of their compassionate treatment of sheep. Rebecca was deemed worthy to be chosen as a wife for Isaac because she volunteered to water thirsty camels. According to the Ten Commandments, animals as well as people should rest and enjoy the earth's bounty on the Sabbath day. Proverbs (12:10) states that "the righteous person regards the life of his (her) animal" and the Psalmist (Psalms 145:19) states that "God's tender mercies are over all His creatures."

I hope that these and other Jewish teachings will soon be put into practice in eliminating the terrible problems discussed in Ms. Ben Shaul's article.

RICHARD H. SCHWARTZ
Ma'aleh Admunim (Satan Island).
- OFFENSIVE**

Sir, - As a Roman Catholic, I take great exception to the cartoon which appeared in American Outlook, your Sunday supplement of January 7, regarding the pope and Madonna. It is in the poorest taste, insulting to Roman Catholics and reflects the warped mind of the cartoonist.

MARIE DAVIS
Jerusalem.
- ASTONISHED**

Sir, - I have not shed a tear upon hearing of Ayyash's death, but I did have to read On Levy's Background of January 7 several times before I could believe my eyes: "Ayyash was finally liquidated Friday in an elegant, quiet and professional way."

I do not know of deaths that are "elegant," at least in cases like this one, and the idea of having my head blown off by a mobile phone certainly does not fill my criteria of elegance.
- DISASTER HAS** struck America: there's a Barbie doll shortage. Demand for the 1995 Happy Holidays Barbie is so high that disappointed consumers who couldn't find them during the Christmas rush were offered vouchers promising home delivery by April.

With the voucher comes a photograph of Barbie wearing a glittery emerald gown with a white Victorian collar sporting appliqued holly berries.

Shoppers nationwide were searching for the doll on the Internet, offering up to \$175 for the doll, which retails for about \$35. Some shoppers waited overnight for stores to let them in. In Knoxville, police were called to break up a fight when a department store didn't have enough dolls for 200 waiting customers.

HE LOOKED like a father, acted like a father and in all respects thought he was a father for six years.

But a 32-year-old Pittsburgh bus driver suddenly learned that
- someone else had fathered the girl who called him "Daddy."

Now he is trying to cut off all ties to the 8-year-old girl - but a judge won't let him.

The man, identified as "Mr. G" in court papers, was ordered to resume monthly payments for the girl. He lived with but did not marry the girl's mother.

Mr. G signed a paper acknowledging fatherhood in 1987 thinking he was the mother's only boyfriend at the time. He learned two years ago that someone else had impregnated her, and he angrily cut off contact with the girl.

He has explained to the girl that he is not her father.

"With a clearly identifiable father walking around out there, we would like to see some effort made to have him fulfill his obligation," Mr. G's lawyer said.

NASA PLANS to send a spacecraft to within 100 km of a comet to capture dust samples and bring them back to Earth for analysis.

"This is the first time since the Apollo program in the 1970s that
- a sample of something interplanetary will be collected and returned to Earth," Ken Atkins, project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said.

The spacecraft, Stardust, will be launched in 1999, and will hurtle toward a flyby of the comet Wild-2 five years later.

Wild-2 is particularly intriguing because it was in a long, "deep freeze" far out into the solar system. But a recent close encounter with Jupiter modified its orbit and brought it closer to the sun.

Scientists believe the interstellar grains, or stardust, have been preserved 4.6 billion years, the age of the solar system.

HOW DOES the haredi community in the Diaspora cope with pictures of bearded Santa Clauses chucking from every shop window and roadside posters? My Orthodox sister in South Africa has an ingenious idea. "Look," she says to her two-year-old son Chaim, "there's another rabbi!"

Heather Chait

סניפן מרשן

THE JERUSALEM
POST

TRAVELER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1996

WATCHING THE Wild



Left: A moose makes its way through the snow in front of the Tetons.

Below: A visitor enjoys an intimate encounter with a seal pup in Quebec's Magdalen Islands. During the annual March birthing season, some 600,000 pups are born on the ice.



Photo by Judi Dash

By Judi Dash

It was a standoff: Twenty bison in the middle of a narrow pass through Yellowstone National Park in the northwest region of the United States. Six snowmobilers facing them with nowhere to go but forward. The bison snorted, the tourists vroom-vroomed their handlebar controls. Things looked ugly—especially the bison.

Our guide, in lead vehicle, hand-motioned us left to the edge of the icy road. Then slowly he moved forward, inches from the woolly herd. We followed single file, hearts in our throats.

The bison, still snorting, steam billowing from heaving wet nostrils, shifted grudgingly a smidgen to the right as we sputtered by, close enough to feel the heat of their breath. Sagely past each other, both sides turned their heads for a final sizing up, then moved on—the animals at a steady trudge, the people at a roaring zip.

Turf wars with other species were not what I'd envisioned when I accepted my husband's proposal to explore Yellowstone and its wildlife in winter last year.

I quickly learned, however, that the serendipitous dictates of cold and snow can pose unpredictable challenges to animals and the people who want to see them, and that as interlopers in a wild land, accommodation was in order. So accommodate we did, yielding to lumbering bison, coyotes on the hunt, and elk foraging in our path across Yellowstone's maze of snowmobile routes.

The result was an exhilarating mix of adventure and animal-watching with gorgeous wintry views a constant throughout our three-day escapade.

Ours was just one of many opportunities for cold-weather wildlife viewing around North America and beyond.

Tracking animals in winter, once mainly the preserve of hunters and diehard nature photographers, has become an increasingly popular vacation option for more traditional tourists. Eschewing the balmy beaches of tropical resorts, animals lovers are donning thermal survival suits, insulated boots and other heat-

retaining gear, and venturing out by land, sea and air to witness creatures in their cold-weather habitats.

At least a dozen outfitters conduct tours of Yellowstone in winter, with views of bison, moose, elk, coyotes and wolves—recently re-introduced into the park.

In Northeastern Canada, several companies run helicopter tours around the Magdalen Islands to see newborn seal pups come into the world on ice floes in the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In snowy expanses across the United States, Canada and beyond, dogged excursions have turned average suburban folks into Nanooks of the North, as they mush their own personal team of huskies through wilderness populated by caribou, walrus and hardy sea birds.

Want more? How about helping to track mountain lions in Idaho as part of an Earthwatch predator survival study? Or joining Lapland's indigenous Sami people following reindeer herds in Arctic Norway?

Turf wars with other species were not what I'd envisioned when I accepted my husband's proposal to explore Yellowstone and its wildlife in winter last year.

You also could track wolves in Quebec or watch up to 4,000 bald eagles converge on late-spawning salmon in a feeding frenzy along the Chilkat River near Haines, Alaska. Or journey to the Japanese mountains to photograph snowbound cranes and wintering snow monkeys.

While answering the call of the wild in winter requires some special precautions, it's not usually a death-defying act.

"Winter wildlife watching means serious protective clothing and a careful attention to signs of hypothermia, but these tours are not just for the hardy traveler," said Ben Bressler, president of Natural Habitat, and outfitter that has run seal-watching trips to Eastern Canada's St. Lawrence Gulf for the past 11 years as well as polar bear watches in Alaska and wolf-tracking excursions in Quebec's Jacques Cartier

Continued on page 4

Chilling Views

By Martin A. Bartels

This is not your average cruise ship. But from the deck you can experience the same spectacular scenery you might see on a luxury liner. There are no swimming pools, no all-night bars, no floating casinos, no all-you-can-eat buffets. On the other hand, the rooms are comfortable, there is a sauna, and the ship itself is designed to go, well...to the very ends of the earth.

This is the "Marine Explorer" of the Toronto, Ontario-based company Marine Expeditions, Inc. Sam Blyth, chairman of the company, describes their ser-

VICES with a stern and uncompromising stare. "We offer no-frills marine expeditions to the most remote areas of the world," he says. "You'll be cared for, not coddled. You will be educated, not entertained. There are no luxuries."

A wry smile trims the corners of his lips. "But you will be comfortable," he says. "We have housekeeping."

This lack of indulgences is what allows the firm to offer some of the most affordable small-ship excursions to intriguing destinations.

While their itineraries include locales such as the Russian Far East, Alaska, coastal South America and the islands of the South Atlantic (a 50-day voyage), the most fascinating and popular expedition travels to



Marine Expeditions no-frills cruise ships travel to the ends of the earth.

Photo by A. Wezert



A scenic view of Anchorage, Alaska from the water.

Photo by Stanton H. Pasty

Antarctica. At first glance, the continent of Antarctica may not seem like an appealing vacation destination. But its wonders are manifold, and well worth the journey for the experienced traveler.

Ironically, for all of its ice masses, Antarctica is the driest continent on earth. On an annual basis it receives less precipitation than any other area. Yet its five million-square-mile territory also contains nearly 90 percent of the world's permanent ice and snow.

And yet in spite of that forbidding surface, some of the most precious wildlife—primarily penguins, whales and seals—call it home.

"By the end of the trip you'll see more penguins than you ever knew existed," Blyth says. "We try and reach land as often as possible. Each ship is equipped with a number of Zodiacs (sturdy inflatable rafts)."

"Although we have to stay somewhat on schedule, our captains are encouraged to be spontaneous. So if you're up until midnight looking at glaciers, and we happen to find out where a large group of whales are breaching at 6 a.m., we'll wake you up and go there."

The itinerary is certainly not for everyone, but that is, in effect, part of Marine Expeditions' goal. The Antarctic environment is fragile, and already sorely scarred by past research and exploration.

Marine Expeditions not only emphasizes environmental awareness and preservation, it actively practices it.

Travelers are thoroughly briefed on international environmental regulations and must confirm to Guidelines of Conduct for Antarctic Visitors, established by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties. In the past year, the company has sponsored research site clean-up activities with the VIEW Foundation, and even sponsors trips in which ecologically minded travelers can take part.

Given the care with which Marine Expeditions designs their trips, it's no surprise that, in spite of the sometimes harsh conditions of the region, Marine Expeditions boasts a 100 percent safety record.

"Our six ships are former Russian and Estonian research ships that are ice rated and originally designed for cruising in polar regions," Blyth says. "There are naturalists on board to talk about the wildlife, and each passenger is given a field guide they can keep after the trip is through. And, all of our pilots have years and years of experience in these climates."

Each of the ships holds between 38 and 118 passengers. Meals (included in the overall price) are served in a small dining room in which interaction with other passengers is strongly encouraged. A medical staff is on call at all times while at sea.

While shore excursions are frequent, and the temperatures, even in summer, hover just above freezing, Blyth said the trip can be catered to older or less physically active passengers.

For the most part, however, this trip is for the person willing to put up with a little discomfort to experience undeniably rewarding and breathtaking views.

For more information, write to: Marine Expeditions, 13 Hazelton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5R 2E1.

GOING TO EXTREMES

The Outer Edge of Outdoor Sports

By Mike Steere

Universal Press Syndicate

"I have nothing to prove to anyone," Jan Davis says of her favorite outdoor pastime. "I do it because I enjoy it."

Making a 3,212-foot parachute drop from a clifftop at Venezuela's Angel Falls, the world's highest cataract, is what Davis is referring to. This harrowing leap, which Davis says about 80 people have made, is the quintessential "extreme" sport.

In extreme sports, the margin of error is minute and the price of error is, often, your life.

"Smack into the object from which you jumped, and you die," Davis says of BASE (Building, Antenna tower, bridge Span, Earth) jumping, the incredibly unforgiving, no-airplane version of skydiving.

Davis and her partner Tom Sanders lead jumping trips to Angel Falls. The pair runs Aerial Focus, a Santa Barbara, California-based company specializing in skydiving cinematography, film stunts and exhibition jumps.

Aerial Focus started its Angel Falls Trips at the urging of the owners' skydiving friends. To take the plunge, you need to be a certified expert parachutist with about \$5,000. (Cost is \$3,500 from Caracas for the 8-day trip, which includes a night in Caracas at the beginning and end of the trip, a canoe trip down a jungle river, three nights at a jungle camp, scouting the falls, instructions, a preparatory helicopter jump and one jump at the falls.)

You also need nerve. More than 30 BASE jumpers have been killed worldwide, a few at Angel Falls. The sport is banned for recreational jumpers in the United States, with the exception of very special cases.

By being "extreme," in the purist's sense, Aerial Focus' Venezuelan outing is a great rarity in commercial adventure travel, where risks to clients are almost always more apparent than real.

The sensations might be extreme on guided adventures, but the hazards usually aren't. Serious accidents are flukes rather than routinely accepted happenings.

These often-bizarre sports are thrilling to watch, and undoubtedly thrilling to perform, but they don't

necessarily involve the serious risks to life on which extreme sport purists insist.

"Those of us who have some understanding of the meaning of the word, all we can do is sit back and laugh," says Eric Perlman, a California filmmaker and writer with extreme bonafides going back to the 1970s.

Perlman was one of the first U.S. adherents to a code of near-suicidal sports fanaticism established by French skiers and mountaineers. ("Extreme," like many English words, has French origins.) As it spread from the Alps, extreme came to embrace free solo climbing (no ropes or hardware) and the most difficult and risky

forms of mainstream pastimes like surfing, river-running and mountain biking.

Perlman, who skied extreme (steep slopes in remote areas) and now chronicles death-defying efforts, says the word "extreme" has fallen out of favor among the outdoor elite.

But the spirit lives on. "BASE jumping is, by definition, an extreme sport," Perlman says, his voice full of admiration. Given the risks and necessary skill and sangfroid, it will probably stay that way, defying mainstreaming forever.

Meanwhile, though, some activities that now seem just as bizarre and dangerous will cross over to wider acceptance. Sooner or later we'll be doing them on guided trips, thrilled, but not in terror for our lives. Much of today's commonplace outdoor recreation and adventuring was once considered extreme.

Equipment has gotten better and easier to use so many can now do, safely, what were once daredevil stunts. New techniques have been devised. In some cases, the limits were mostly perceptual. Things just turned out to be much less dangerous than they seemed, at first.

River-running is a case study in how the extreme gets less-so. Until about a decade ago, the world's wildest runnable rapids were beyond the pale for commercial outfitters. The breakthrough was the self-bailing raft.

Before the self-bailer, only river-running's elite could take on monstrously rough rivers like South America's Rio Beni and Africa's Zambezi. First descents of such streams were potentially deadly plunges into the unknown, on the order of BASE jumping Angels Falls. Now they're scheduled trips.

Bill Dvorak, owner of a Colorado-based river-running company, sees other whitewater extremes being beaten back. After about a day's training, neophytes can solo-paddle inflatable kayaks to Class III-IV rapids, which challenge experts in hard-shell kayaks. Before the recent popularity of inflatables, which Dvorak and other outfitters use on trips, rigid, decked kayaks were the only one-person boats for big rapids.

Another breakthrough may further democratize big whitewater. Dvorak sees a rage-in-the-making in boatless river-running, using whitewater body boards, the riverine version of surfers' body boards.

River-boarders wear fins for propulsion and steering, along with helmets, knee-protectors and knee and shoulder pads. Dvorak, who has watched people in such rigs shooting Class IV and V rapids, says boards are easier to handle than rafts and kayaks.

Sometimes "extreme" is a matter of newness. It takes the world a while to figure out what to do with new toys and amusements. One-time fringe sports, like mountain biking and in-line skating, exploded in popularity.

Mass acceptance pushes the extremes even further. Expert's moves get trickier, the price of falling higher, while the rest of us surprise ourselves doing things we never imagined doing.

One mauler, a professional stuntman, took mountain biking literally over the edge at Angel Falls, pedaling off the brink wearing a parachute. This, like BASE jumping in general, will probably never catch on big.

Mountain biking, on the other hand, has caught on huge, and adventure travel companies offer fat-tire cycle tours on every continent.

So what's going to be huge in 2005? Adventure and outdoor-recreation pundits are stumped by the question. But they agree that somewhere, on the fringes of today's outdoor sports, a few are already doing it.

And the rest of us think they're crazy.



Jan Davis in a freefall parachute drop from Angel Falls in Venezuela: "I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do it because I enjoy it."

Photo by Tom Sanders

High Upgrade

A

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مركز من القبول



The new 307-room Alyeska Prince Hotel at Alyeska Resort features six restaurants, including a honky establishment at the 2,300-foot level of the resort's ski mountain.

Photo courtesy of Alyeska Resort

High Class Resorts

Upgrades Lift Alyeska into Big Leagues

By Stanton H. Patty

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—It was a moon-bright winter night. Garlands of lights marked zig-zag trails on the ski mountain. Howling songs of huskies echoed across the valley. Rooftops wore top hats of fresh snow.

And guests in tuxedos and evening gowns were joining the jeans-and-sweaters crowd for fine dining high on the slopes of Mt. Alyeska.

Sushi, anyone?

Or perhaps basil roasted pheasant or striped bass in cilantro-ginger broth? Something exciting is happening here.

Japanese investors last year opened a 307-room, \$70 million resort hotel—the Alyeska Prince—at Alyeska Resort, 40 highway miles south of Anchorage.

The elegant, chateau-style hotel has lifted Alyeska from the category of "Great Skiing" (this is where Tommy Moe, the 1994 Winter Olympics downhill gold medalist lives) to "World Class Resort."

"This puts us in the big leagues," says Keith Fernandez, communications director of the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Alyeska has been on ski maps since 1959, but mostly as a day-use area. In 1980 Alaska Airlines, the longtime owner, sold Alyeska to Japan-based Seibu Alaska, Inc. Seibu since has spent a reported \$100 million to build the new hotel, an aerial

tramway to the ski slopes, mountain restaurants and other facilities.

Now an international ski crowd is discovering Alyeska. (Alyeska—pronounced alley-ESS-kah—is an ancient Aleut word meaning "Great Land." Alaska's modern name was derived from "Alyeska" or something close to that sound.)

The resort features six restaurants—four in the hotel itself and two at the 2,300-foot level of Mt. Alyeska.

Guests headed for gourmet dining at the Seven Glaciers Restaurant, up on Mt. Alyeska, board the new tramway that departs right from the hotel. Travel time through the clouds is 3 minutes and 40 seconds. So much for Alaska's frigid image...

The 60-passenger tram to the Seven Glaciers slows to about half speed in summer so that visitors can see the ring of glaciers around 3,939-foot-high Mt. Alyeska at a gentle pace.

Summer also is prime time here.

That's because thousands of passengers aboard tour motor-coaches headed for nearby Portage Glacier—Alaska's most-visited attraction—pause to explore Alyeska. Ski runs become hiking trails when the snow melts.

Alyeska also is on the way to and from Seward, Alaska's newest cruise-ship port.

From Seward, 130 miles south of Anchorage by way of the Seward Highway, cruise passengers travel inland to visit Anchorage, Denali National Park (Mt. McKinley) and Fairbanks.

Once-sleepy Seward (pop. 3,000) has become a

major turnaround port for several cruise lines, including Princess Cruises and Holland America Line. In addition to the all-weather Seward Highway, Seward also has rail connections to Alaska's interior.

No matter what the season, the view from Mt. Alyeska is smashing.

Skiers and sightseers at the Glacier Terminal—top of the Alyeska Tramway—are wrapped in a panorama of peaks and glaciers of the Chugach Mountains. Below, at sea level, is a saltwater fjord, Turnagain Arm. (Turnagain takes its name from 1778, when Capt. James Cook, the English navigator, ventured up the arm, only to find a dead end. Cook had to "turn again" to exit the area.)

There's never a shortage of snow at Alyeska.

No matter what the season, the view from Mt. Alyeska is smashing. Skiers and sightseers at the Glacier Terminal—top of the Alyeska Tramway—are wrapped in a panorama of peaks and glaciers of the Chugach Mountains.

Skiing here begins in November, and extends through April.

For skiers and snow-boarders, there is an assortment of lifts: the tramway, a high-speed detachable quad that can move 2,400 skiers an hour, two fixed-grip quads, three double chairs and two pony tows. Altogether, there are 60 runs twisting across 470 acres. Other winter activities available at Alyeska include cross-country skiing, dog-sledding, flightseeing (with glacier landings when weather permits),

paragliding, snowshoeing, ice skating—and northern lights viewing.

The Alyeska Prince Hotel offers guests wakeup calls when the aurora borealis—the northern lights—blazes in Alaskan skies.

The summer menu in and around Alyeska: hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, mountain climbing, whale-watching, flightseeing, tennis and glacier skiing.

The hotel's guest-services staff also arranges shopping excursions and tickets to cultural events in Anchorage, just 45 minutes away.

Some guests may not want to roam from the hotel at all.

The theme throughout is cherry wood with teal-green accents. Room amenities range from heated towel racks to cable television. And outside each guest room is a locker for storing ski boots.

There also is a fitness center with a 45-foot-long lap pool, a sauna and a gym with exercise machines. Up on the slopes, visitors may meet Zip, one of Alaska's canine celebrities.

Zip, a four-year-old border collie, was seen snapping at snowflakes on a recent network television show.

But more importantly, Zip is an avalanche-rescue dog with an organization called Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs. Zip is a veteran of several searches; two years ago she saved a young man who was lost in the wilderness north of Anchorage.

One of Zip's favorite sports is to ride the chair lifts for training sessions on Mount Alyeska.

"I just say, 'Chair!'—and Zip jumps up on the lift," says Donna Jefferson, Zip's handler.

Zip also goes flying with Donna's husband, Keith Fiedorowicz, an Alyeska bush pilot.

And then there is an elephant named Annabelle that paints pretty pictures. Annabelle resides at the Alaska Zoo here in Anchorage.

But that's another story ...

Stanton H. Patty, born and reared in Alaska, is the retired assistant travel editor of *The Seattle Times*.

IF YOU GO

GETTING THERE

Alyeska Resort is 40 miles south of Anchorage by the Seward Highway. Rental cars are available in Anchorage. The resort offers shuttle service from Anchorage International Airport for \$25 each way.

ALYESKA PRINCE HOTEL

Winter rates begin at \$150-\$190 a night for two. Summer rates (May 16-Sept. 15) begin at \$230-\$280. Several money-saving packages are available that include some meals and lift tickets.

SKI LIFTS

Adults, \$30 for all-day tickets for all lifts; students (ages 14-17), \$23; children (ages 8-13), \$17; younger children (age 7 and younger), \$7; seniors (age 61 and up), \$17. Tramway only: adults, \$12; students, \$10; children, \$7.

OPTIONAL ADVENTURES

Sled-dog tours with Chugach Express, guided by mushers who have been in business 17 years. Price is \$30 for a half-hour ride; \$45 for one hour. Guests are invited to try mushing the dogs over easy terrain. Call (001) 907/783-2266. Flightseeing with Alpine Air Guides. A 45-minute flight to view mountain scenery and wildlife is \$45 a person. Weather permitting, the pilot will make a glacier landing for \$25 more. Call (001) 907/783-2360.

Snowmobiling with Crow Creek Snowmachine Tours. A full-day guided tour, with guests driving snow machines on wilderness trails near Alyeska, is priced at \$200 a person, including lunch. Call (001) 907/783-2660.

ANCHORAGE AREA ATTRACTIONS

Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West 7th Avenue, in downtown Anchorage. The museum's Alaska Gallery is a splendid introduction to Alaska's native culture. Admission fees are \$4 for adults; \$3.50 for seniors (age 65 or more). There is no charge for people younger than age 18. Call (001) 907/343-4326.

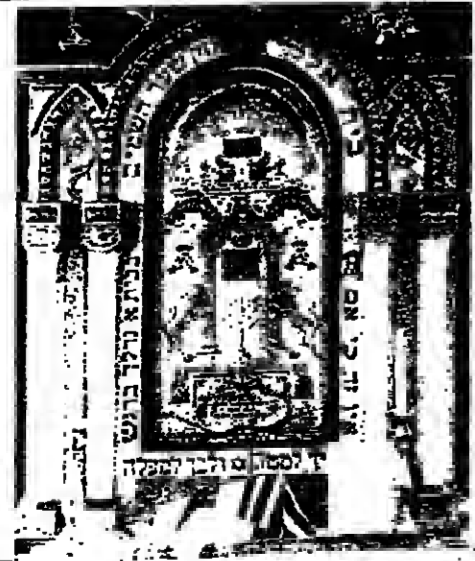
Alaska Zoo, 4731 O'Malley Road, in South Anchorage. Meet bears, moose, fox, lynx and other Alaska species. The collection also includes some non-Alaskan exhibits, including elephants and camels. Siberian tigers are to be added soon. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for students (ages 13-18), \$3 for children (ages 3-12). Call (001) 907/346-2133.

Portage Glacier, Alaska's most-visited attraction, about 48 miles south of Anchorage by the Seward Highway. A 5.2-mile branch road leads from the main highway to a U.S. Forest Service visitor center. Guided walks are available. Call (001) 907/783-2326 or (001) 907/783-3242.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alyeska Resort and Alyeska Prince Hotel, P.O. Box 249, Girdwood, Alaska 99587, call (001) 907/754-2111.

Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1600 A Street, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, call (001) 907/276-4118.



And I Shall Dwell Among Them

Historic Synagogues of the World

Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

For the last three years Neil Folberg, a former student of Ansel Adams, has travelled the world, visiting Jewish communities past and present and photographing both grand-scale and modest synagogues, in places ranging from India to the Czech Republic, to Israel, the American South and the Caribbean. An essay by Yom Tov Assis focuses on the social and cultural history of the Jews, and Neil Folberg's first-person account of his photographs accompanies each of the chapters, which are divided into geographic regions. A superb full color album, it provides a vibrant window onto the Jewish cultural past.

Published by Steimatzky.

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Shuttering in the cold

By Carl and Ann Purcell

Copley News Service

Winter images can be found all year around in at least some part of the world and at high altitudes. A few basic rules can make these images as visually exciting as your spring and summer photos.

When taking photographs of snow scenes, be careful if you are using an automatic-exposure camera. Backgrounds with large expanses of snow can cause underexposure or darkening of people and other subjects in the foreground. Use the exposure lock to read the area of major interest before tripping the shutter.

Bright colors, such as red, can add a touch of interest to a picture taken on a cold, gray day. Have your family (or models) wear brightly colored sweaters, scarves and stocking caps.

Sunny winter days can create dark facial shadows. These can be eliminated by the use of flash-fill or even a tin-foil reflector. To make your own reflector, paste or tape some kitchen tin foil to a large piece of flat cardboard.

As you leave the fireplace of the ski lodge, remember that your cameras are also warm and taking them directly outside into subzero temperatures may cause some condensation on both metal and glass surfaces. It is better to let the cameras and lenses cool off gradually. Wiping the lenses will not help. Just wait until the glass is cool enough that the lens dries by itself. Camera batteries do not function well when they

become very cold. You can keep them warm by carrying your camera under your coat, using your body heat.

There are less athletic ways of getting spectacular winter photographs. For example, Swiss Railways has introduced an all-day excursion on the Glacier Express that will give you one breathtaking panorama after another on the way between Zermatt and St. Moritz. An added advantage for the photographer is that the windows of the relatively luxurious train can be opened when you are taking pictures. Don't be tempted to pack a lunch box; for about \$12, you can have a truly gourmet dining experience on the Glacier Express.

Cable cars in any country have the disadvantage that their windows do not open, but they usually deposit you at a spectacular vantage point for winter photos. You will want a zoom lens, perhaps an 85-210 mm, to pick out individual houses or people on the hillsides.

When the snow really starts to fall, take your camera out and get into the thick of it. City lights, people and even traffic are transformed into a winter wonderland. You can protect your camera with a clear plastic bag covering everything but the lens.

Winter shots can be very effective. Look for light reflecting on surfaces that are covered with ice. Put the sun behind icicles and frozen tree branches. Take night photographs in cities when frozen surfaces become mirror reflections of colorful neon and traffic lights.

It's not as hard as you would think to take photos in the winter. Just pack a warm coat, some thick socks and go looking for some cool pictures!

Carl and Ann Purcell are America's leading travel writing/photography team. Ann Purcell is the president of the Society of American Travel Writers.



Photo by Ann and Carl Purcell

Piney River Ranch offers a spectacular winter view near Vail, Colorado.



Photo by Judi Dash

Adventurers set out to view moose, elk, wolves and bighorn sheep in Wyoming and Montana with the Great Plains Wildlife Institute.

Wild From page 1

Park. "We've had guests as young as 4 and well into their 90s who came through with flying colors."

The key, Bressler says, is for both outfitters and guests to be prepared for the cold.

Outfitters headed for frigid climes often rent or provided free of charge thermal suits and insulated boots. But clients—especially those who chill easily—need to gear up with warm head coverings, toasty sweaters and socks, and gloves that will keep their fingers from freezing up.

EXPLORING YELLOWSTONE AND ENVIRONS:

For such a frigid ambience, Yellowstone National Park offers an amazing variety of exploration opportunities in its coldest months.

Our snowmobile trip was based at Pahaska Teepee Resort, and informal lodge just a mile from the park's east entrance, about 50 miles west of Cody, Wyoming.

Our route took us past misty Yellowstone Lake and to the dramatic Grand Canyon of Yellowstone and the sulfurous mud volcanoes along the way, with views of buffalo, moose and coyotes. Lunches were at warming huts along the way, which are maintained by the National Park Service.

Given the choice of manning my own snowmobile or doubling up on one of Pahaska's larger machines, I chose to ride passenger behind my husband after an unsettling practice solo run in the park lot. I never regretted that decision, particularly when we were speeding through narrow icy passes; I heartily advise those with no motorcycling experience to do a trial session at the base before committing to a day trying to dominate one of these 500-pound machines.

I wish the snowmobiles had been quieter. While zipping about in our 600-cc Polaris was undeniably great fun, I felt pangs of remorse after seeing a lumbering buffalo startled by our oncoming roar or enveloped in a yellowy cloud of exhaust. You'll have to weigh the pros and cons of seeing the park this way—and the truth is, the vehicles do provide unique access to Yellowstone's more remote trails, canyons and thermal pools. If you do opt for a snowmobile, show respect for other species. After all, you're on vacation, they're struggling for survival.

bighorn sheep of Whiskey Mountain in the Wind River Valley.

Stays are in inns and park lodges, with time to hit the hot spots and ski slopes around Jackson.

EAGLES IN ALASKA:

November through January, thousands of American bald eagles converge on a five-mile stretch of the Chilkat River near Haines, Alaska, to feed on late-spawning chum salmon. With a peak count of up to 4,000 (the largest gathering of bald eagles in the world), the eagles make an awesome sight to visitors who make the 15-minute drive from Haines to the 48,000-acre Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. The Haines Highway runs right through the preserve, so motorists can see the eagles the easy way.

Those seeking a more pristine encounter can don cross-country ski and snowshoes and venture deeper into the preserve. Alaska Nature Tours, a Haines outfitter, runs five-days wildlife photography and interpretive tours around the area during peak eagle-viewing season, supplementing bird-watching with cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dogsledding and a tour of Haines' Natural History Museum and Eagle Interpretive Center with evenings carousing around town.

TAGGING MOUNTAIN LIONS IN IDAHO:

Earthwatch, a nonprofit group, recruits paying volunteers to help scientists working on conservation projects worldwide. The organization offers dozens of trips each year where participants can make their vacations make a difference by monitoring endangered wildlife and their habitats.

This winter guests can work with the Mountain Lion Wildlife Management project to south-central Idaho and near-in Utah, helping to track and radio-collar the wild cats.

The project studies predator feeding and breeding

patterns in the face of shrinking wilderness caused by encroaching farming, ski resorts and towns.

Working with scientists John Laundre and Donald Streubel, experts in predator ecology, up to eight volunteers will hike across rocky bluffs and deep canyons, led by local houndsmen—who Earthwatch coordinator Kris Johnson describes as "reformed hunters turned conservationists." The bounds snuff out rattlesnakes and free the lions, who are then darted by the scientists, equipped with radio collars, and freed.

Participants should be prepared to hike up to 10 miles a day in sometimes deep snow. Winter day temperatures peak at 40 and drop to 20 degrees below zero at night.

Accommodations are in a modern ranch house, but participants need to bring their own sleeping bags. Free-time activities include optional cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

HARP SEAL PUPS AND WOLVES IN QUEBEC:

Natural Habitat of Boulder, Colorado, runs five- and six-day trips to Canada's Magdalen Islands, to see the baby harp seals born on the frozen floes of the St. Lawrence Gulf.

During the annual March birthing season, some 600,000 pups are born on the ice and wildlife lovers have encouraged tourism in the area as a commercial alternative to seal hunting.

Participants are flown to the ice by helicopter, for one or more visits to the seals. When not viewing the seals, guests can attend ecology slide shows and lectures, go cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing, and explore the countryside on optional tours.

Five trips are planned for 1996. Those with a particular interest in photography may want to sign up for the March 11 trip, which entails extra time on the ice with the seals.

For those who would rather stalk predators,

Natural Habitat runs eight-day wolf-tracking research expeditions in the snowy expanses of Jacques Cartier Conservation Park, about 40 miles north of Quebec City.

Based at a log cabin lodge, participants assist scientific researchers in radio-tracking the wolves by helicopter, snowmobile, and snowshoes in an effort to study their movement and behavior and its implication for the animals' survival prognosis. The trip amid secluded mountains and forest also offers sightings of lynx, beaver, fox and otter.

MUSHING IN MINNESOTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA:

Paul Schorke runs multi-day dogsled trips out of his Wintergreen Lodge in Ely, Minnesota into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) along the U.S.-Canada border. Four-night lodge-to-lodge dogsled trips around the BWCA include campfire trail lunches, saunas, optional snowshoeing, ice fishing and cross-country skiing.

Five-night dogsled and camping trips include stays in tents and training in winter camping, snow-shelter and fire building, map and compass work, and ecology.

No particular athletic skills or stamina are required, but you must be in basically good physical shape. A highlight is the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with assigned sled dogs—frisky 2- to 6-year-old Canadian huskies.

In the Cariboo Mountains of British Columbia, a hefty 240 miles northeast of Vancouver, Super Natural Adventures runs one-week dog-mushing programs out of Wells Gray Guest Ranch.

Set on the boundary of Wells Gray Park, a 1.2-million-acre wilderness reserve, the ranch is the base for days trips around the park before a three-day mushing trip to the Grizzly Mountain Plateau, with stays in wood-heated back-country log cabins.

Participants can try their skill at ice-fishing, with a chance to see wolves, coyote, wolverine, moose, elk, deer and mountain sheep.

LAPLAND WINTER SAFARI:

March and April may see spring bursting out in most of the United States, but Norway's Lapland still is deep in winter. That's when Eco Expeditions heads to this high Arctic wilderness to join the indigenous Sami people, nomads who follow the reindeer herds from which come sustenance, clothing and shelter.

Starting in Oslo, Norway, up to 14 guests fly to Kirkenes, near the Russian border to begin the adventure. With the Northern Lights overhead and vast snowy expanses to traverse, participants travel by snowmobile, reindeer sleigh and dogsled, with an opportunity to mush their own canine team for two days at an Arctic wilderness lodge.

Judi Dash is a freelance writer in Ohio.



Photo by Judi Dash

Accommodation is in order when snowmobiles and bison share the same turf in Yellowstone National Park.

TRAVELER

PRODUCED BY:

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Separate beds do not mean a bad marriage

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
I have just returned from a trip to see my parents. I was startled to observe many changes since my last visit. Most significant is that my parents no longer share a bedroom. My mother made several references to her nocturnal discomforts, and to my father's snoring. Not very good at intimate discussion with them, I couldn't ask whether this is indicative of a bad marriage. But now I find myself pondering this question without letup.

Disarmed Daughter
Herzliya

Dear DD,

The fact that your mother made "several references" to the nocturnal separation is more indicative of a problem than the actual separation. It is also possible that she sensed your alarm, and was responding to it by "explaining" the phenomenon.

Many couples who reach a certain age find it easier to have this kind of privacy, particularly when they spend so much of the rest of the day in one another's company. In some cases, it means that they want to be "divorced" within the same house, and in some cases, it merely means that sex has moved way down the priority ladder. But the problem here is not how to figure out your parents' situation, but rather to examine your preoccupation with it. Perhaps this is the first time you have viewed them as "husband and wife" rather than some kind of parental entity. It is always upsetting to discover that parents are not what we imagine them to be.

Dear Ruthie,

I have just begun dating, after getting divorced two years ago. My six-year-old has begun wetting his bed every night. Is there a direct correlation? If so, what can I do about it? Should I hide my dating from him?

Worried about Wetting
Somewhere in Israel

Dear W about W,

If the bed-wetting and dating began simultaneously, there probably is some correlation. Your child may be experiencing loss of control.

His bladder is doing his talking, so to speak. Ironically, this particular expression of powerlessness on the part of a child

awards him much control over a parent. Every time your son wets his bed, you are forced to change and wash his sheets, air out his bed, and bathe him. You are also preoccupied with thoughts about the cause of his regression during the rest of the day. You can try to get him to verbalize his distress (to you and/or a therapist) or you can be as honest with him about your dating as his age allows, but you should not allow his problem to prevent you from going on with your life.

Your goal should be to reassure him that his place in your life is guaranteed.

Dear Ruthie,

My mother-in-law always exchanges the gifts we give her. As she has an important birthday coming up, my husband and I have been debating about the "perfect" present for her. I find it tiring to spend a lot of time searching, only to have her return the item in the end.

What do you suggest?
Birthday Befuddled
Netanya

Dear BB,

I suggest finding a shop your mother-in-law frequents, and purchasing her a generous gift certificate. Let her do her own shopping.

Apparently, this is what she likes best.

Dear Ruthie,

My son's classmates are all having their bar mitzva this year. The gifts he wants to buy for them for this occasion are always more than I can afford since there are 40 pupils in his class. On the other hand, I do not want him to feel as though he is being cheap. Do you have any suggestions?

Gift Giver with Guilt
Hod Hasharon

Dear GG with G,

One option is to give your son a certain amount of money for each gift, to which he can add his own cash. Another is to suggest he buy an expensive gift together with a group of friends. Then just hold your breath until next year, when all of his classmates will be turning 14.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

The bubbie boomers: 85 and still going

The very oldest members of society are surprisingly healthy, Leah Abramowitz reports

THE older population is clearly growing by leaps and bounds, but what's less obvious is that the fastest-growing segment among the elderly are those over 85.

While the general population grows 2 percent every decade, and the elderly (over 65) increase 8%, these "oldest olds" - as they are called by gerontologists - are growing by an astonishing 37% in Israel and a similar rate throughout the West.

According to statistics listed in a survey by the Brookdale Institute, "Aging in Israel in the '90s" (which was concluded before the large aliyah wave), there were 68,600 oldest olds here in 1988; and the prediction is for 93,700 by 2000.

Compare this with 220,000 senior citizens who were 65 to 74 years old in 1988. This group has presumably grown to 239,900 in 1995 and is actually expected to fall to 237,900 by 2000, according to the survey.

The repercussions, according to Jack Habb, director of Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem, are great. "This is a population that we consider at risk; they need greatly increased medical and community services."

Dr. Yitzhak Brick, director of Eshel, the branch of the Joint Distribution Committee in charge of services for the aged, agrees. The majority of the elder-

ly using public facilities are the old olds, he says.

These institutions include sheltered housing, old-age homes and nursing homes, as well as community services such as day-care centers, home-care programs, respite bed facilities or caretakers.

Eshel is scrambling to keep up with the boom in those 85 and older. To meet the predicted growth of the frail and dependent old olds, it hopes to raise the number of day-care centers from 119 to 147.

Today there are 7,442 attending these social and medical facilities nationwide.

According to a comprehensive study, 14,500 dependent elderly will take part in this type of community care in the coming decade.

There are currently 16,500 beds in institutions for the frail, demented and chronic elderly, and experts predict there will be a need for 24,430 such beds by 2005.

Most of the old olds will be living in the community, as they

do today.

A study by Prof. Ya'akov Modan of Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer on 1,800 old olds shows that 36% of the 75- to 90-year-olds live with spouses or another relative or friend other than an offspring. 35% live alone and 15% with a child, making for an amazing 86% who remain in the community.

Perhaps three-fourths of the "old olds" who live at home are somewhat handicapped and need assistance with at least one function of activities of daily living - such as bathing, dressing or feeding.

Prof. Howie Litwin of the Hebrew University said today's "young old" (65-74) are really not old at all. "Today's new pensioners are really like people in their 40s at the beginning of the century."

The important issue, according to Litwin, is not adding years to our lives but adding life to our years.

Will illness and dependency merely be postponed and last so much longer at an advanced stage

in life? How should society prepare itself for the bubbie boom that awaits it?

Despite the dire predictions of many gerontologists that the bubbie boom will overwhelm our society with sick, dependent and decrepit old people, some experts have shown that the oldest sector of the population is no less needy or sick than other old people.

Bernie Laurie, an American sociologist, who has concentrated on the very aged, calls these people the "robust olds."

These are survivors who overcome many difficulties in the turbulent 20th century, who fought off diseases in a period when antibiotics were not yet in use and when child mortality was devastating.

As reported in the *Scientific American* of January 1995, many oldest olds today are amazingly healthy and active. They seem to be particularly resistant to disorders that disabled and killed most of their contemporaries before the age of 90.

Because of this resistance, they

not only outlive others, they do so relatively free of infirmities.

Thus because they represent a select survival-of-the-fittest species within the human race, these long lived probably possess traits that enable them to avoid or delay the diseases that usually accompany aging. Stroke, cardiac disease and other illnesses actually decrease among the very old.

A study by Thomas Peris shows that men who survive into their late 90s become less and less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease with each passing year. Even more amazing, the average man in his late 90s has a more intact mind than the average man in his 80s.

Gender traits in the very old are all turned around. It seems that men older than 90 generally have better mental function than do women. They suddenly do a "gender crossover" and live longer too.

The new conception that many people over age 95 are in good shape may mean that future planning for the health and social care of the robust old will need to be revised.

Research implies that as the oldest olds become more numerous, they may not become a massive drain on the economy and on their families. Counter to popular opinion, many people in their nineties and even hundreds lead active, healthy lives.

Beam me up, Scotty! It ain't as easy as it looks

WHILE it seems likely that humans will one day travel to the stars, how similar will the technology in real starships be to that aboard the *Starship Enterprise*?

A highly popular exhibition about the *Star Trek* television series running at the Science Museum in London has had the misfortune of coinciding with the publication of an amusing book (*The Physics of Star Trek*, Basic Books, \$18.50) by physicist Lawrence Krauss which points out *Star Trek's* many scientific absurdities.

The issue has been made all the more relevant by the recent announcement of the discovery of the first complete atoms of anti-matter, or "anti-atoms," the fuel that will probably one day drive real starships.

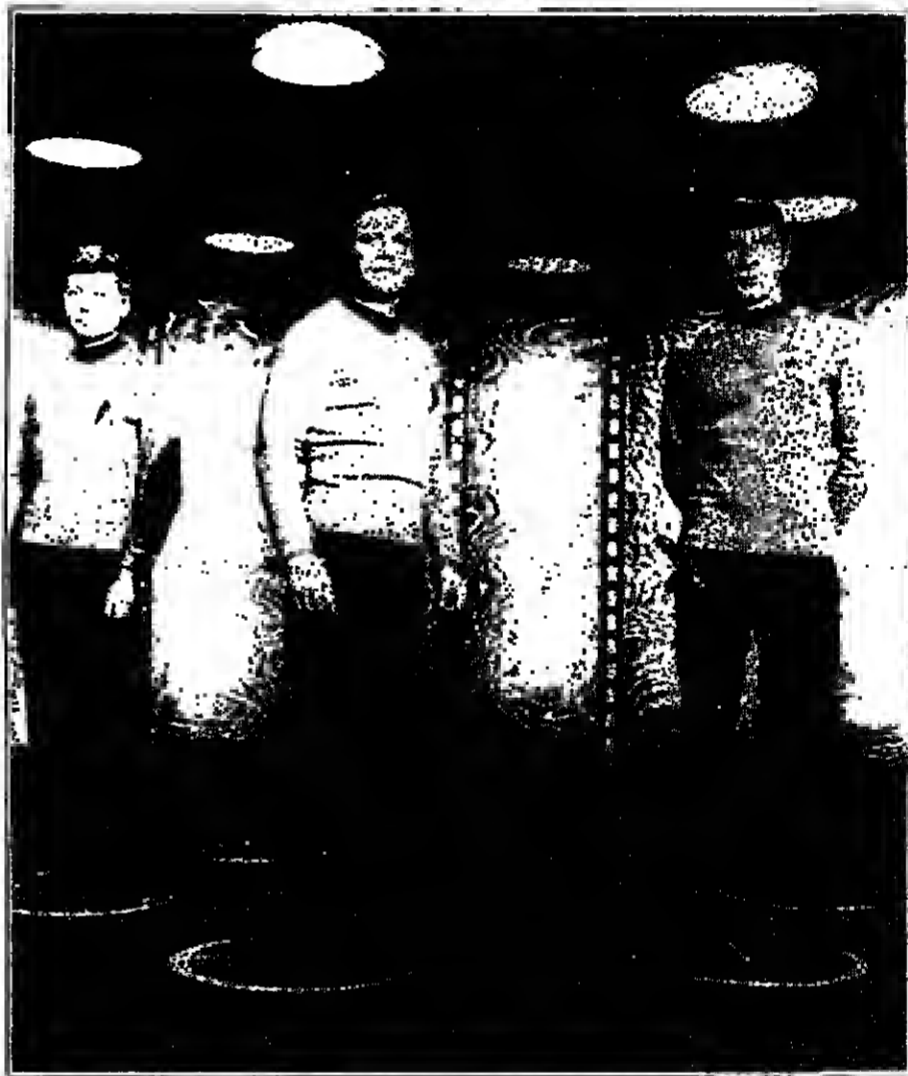
The errors in the TV show are rather more serious than the split infinitive in "to boldly go," writes Krauss, a professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. The most fantastic mistake of all is made with the phrase, "Beam me up, Scotty," which refers to the beam transporter that ferries people at the speed of light between the ship and the surfaces of planets.

A notice in the museum's exhibit says that this is merely a convenience to cut television production costs. Why pay for a space shuttle that would need a regular extra scene?

But it does not work.

It is not just a matter of the risk that Capt. Picard, being beamed down and accidentally having a huzzing fly in the transporter room, might reemerge with the head of a fly. A much deeper problem lies in transforming a person into energy, transmitting that energy over a distance and restoring it to matter once it has reached its destination.

Admittedly, in Einstein's equation $E=mc^2$ matter can be converted into energy and back again. But the problem is that a very small amount of matter can create enormous amounts of energy. The mass of a human being is approximately 10^2 atoms and converting all this to energy produces



Trekkie fans may be disappointed with the book 'The Physics of Star Trek,' which points out the show's many scientific absurdities.

the equivalent of about 1,000 one-megaton hydrogen bombs, more than enough to obliterate much of the planet the *Enterprise* was visiting.

But suppose we do not send energy at all, but merely information, in the form of

bytes, about the person being beamed. (A single byte contains the same amount of information as one alphabetic letter.)

Could not a clever computer at the other end transform all this information back into a perfect facsimile of the person?

That presents another nasty problem. The total information content of a single human body is the same as the number of its atoms.

"At present," Krauss says, "the largest commercially available single hard disks store about 10 billion bytes of information."

If each disk is about 13 cm. thick, and if we stacked all the disks currently needed to store a human pattern (personality and body) on top of one another, they would stretch out to nearly four times the distance between the sun and the nearest star.

Computer storage capacity will certainly improve in coming centuries, but surely not by this much.

Krauss also has problems with those aliens who are said to consist of pure energy. Like radio signals, they should always travel at the speed of light, never slower or faster. To them, the passage of time would be totally different from ours. The entire history of the universe would pass them by in a single instant.

Instead, they are shown sitting in the *Enterprise* and chatting with its crew. The museum's exhibit is fascinating because it explains what all the ship's gadgets do. But one thing it never does is tell us how they work.

A journalist recently asked a production executive of the series "How does the warp drive work?" only to receive the unhelpful reply: "It works very well, thank you."

(The Sunday Telegraph)

Rabbi Chaim Pearl: A dignified scholar

RABBI Chaim Pearl's career spanned three continents and nearly 50 years. A graduate of the Rabbinical College of Liverpool and Jews' College in London, he also held BA, MA and PhD degrees from the University of Birmingham and the University of London.

During World War II, he served as the principal of the Jew-

After four years in London, he moved to the US to become the rabbi of the Conservative synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale, New York, where he remained for 16 years.

Rabbi Pearl was on the faculty of the B'nai B'rith Institute of Religion and served as dean of the Academy of Jewish Religion in Manhattan.

He was a prolific writer, lecturer and critic. His most recently published work was *The Book of Jewish Folklore and Legend*.

He was also a noted scholar on Rashi and published two major works on his commentaries and life.

Rabbi Pearl's *Guide to Jewish Knowledge* has long been regarded as a key introductory text to Judaism and has been translated into many languages.

Upon moving to Jerusalem in 1980, he became a leading figure in the Masorti Movement. He was active in the Ramot Zion Synagogue in French Hill and a teacher of continuing Jewish education at the Center for Conservative Judaism.

Rabbi Pearl was also a frequent radio commentator on Israeli Radio, where he espoused the need for religious moderation in Israeli society and the importance of ethical and moral values in Jewish practice.

In his later years, he was an associate editor of *The Jewish Bible Quarterly*.

Throughout his distinguished career as an eloquent preacher, capable administrator and caring pastor, he was a gentleman.

Rabbi Chaim Pearl was a scholar and teacher who skillfully plied his trade with a quiet dignity.

So too, his melodic singing voice often resounded in each community in which he served.

He is survived by his wife Anita, to whom he was married for more than 50 years, their four children and 10 grandchildren. Jerusalem Post Staff and Pesach Schindler



Rabbi Pearl was a scholar who plied his trade with quiet dignity. (Ariel Jerolimski)

ish Children's Community Hostels in South Wales and Ascot for children evacuated from the major cities in Britain.

In 1945, he became the rabbi of Birmingham's Singer's Hill congregation, where he served for 15 years before moving to London's prestigious New West End Synagogue.

Rabbi Pearl advocated a flexible approach to religious practice and espoused the need for Judaism to remain relevant to the majority of the community.

He was prominent in the Zionist and communal leadership of Anglo-Jewry and was vice president of the British section of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of its culture committee.

East is East, West is West, and then again, there's the MIDEAST.....history, biography, politics...

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1996

Private demand up 7% in '95

Jerusalem Post Staff

PRIVATE consumption rose an estimated seven percent last year from 1994, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday, based on preliminary data.

The increase in private demand appeared against the backdrop of vigorous growth for the organized retail sector, where sales rose 9% in nominal terms from 1994.

The CBS produced these figures based on its monthly surveys of the country's major retail chains and various franchises that sell textiles, food, footwear, and various durable goods - excluding cars, car parts, fuel and gas.

Within the various branches of retailing, food sales recorded the highest pace of growth - 12%-13% - in comparison with 1994.

Canada expects increase in trade with Israel

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

TRADE between Israel and Canada is expected to grow significantly following the recent proposal for a free-trade agreement between the two countries, according to Ruth Zeisler, commercial counselor at the Canadian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The agreement, if approved by both governments, will establish a free-trade regime between Canada and Israel featuring full tariff elimination on all manufactured goods, agriculture and fish products.

Both governments will be reviewing the agreement in the upcoming months.

Zeisler said the agreement will put Canada on "equal footing" with the US and the European Union, both of which have free-trade agreements with Israel.

"Canadian goods have been disadvantaged by tariffs," Zeisler said. "The new agreement basically puts Canadian [exports] on a level playing field with US and European products."

Canada has a trade deficit with Israel, with exports totaling \$140m. and imports at \$180m. last year. Canada's exports to Israel last year increased 49% from 1994, while imports increased 39%.

Zeisler said she did not want to estimate the extent to which the agreement will affect trade between the two countries, but said "the potential is endless."

"This is a very broad agreement," Zeisler said. "There's potential for joint ventures and research and development. Basically it says: 'we now have a free trade agreement; let's do business.'"

'NIS 200 million deficit at Dan Bus Cooperative'

250 employees ask for dismantling of firm

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

THE Dan Bus Cooperative has amassed a NIS 200 million deficit, leading it to the verge of collapse, the *Telegraph* reported yesterday.

Some NIS 160m. of the deficit has been accumulated in the past few years.

The company received government subsidies of NIS 100m. last year and is scheduled to receive a similar package this year.

Company spokesman Itzik Kagen would not comment on the cooperative's financial situation.

When asked if the government subsidy should bring more accountability, Kagen said profits do not reflect the success or failure of companies that provide public transportation.

"The whole idea of profits, when you're talking about public transportation, is not relevant," said Kagen. "We're not a taxi which can refuse a passenger if the trip isn't profitable. We have to take passengers even if it's 11:30 p.m. and there's only one person on the bus."

Finance Ministry spokesman Eli Yosef said the company is not obligated to disclose information regarding its profits and losses, even if it uses public funds to subsidize prices.

"We are not a communist country; we don't manage the companies even if we give them a subsidy," Yosef said. "Any crisis they have is their own, and they have to manage it."

Company employees said they fear for the future of the company, because most of its debts are owed to Bank Hapoalim, the *Telegraph* reported.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat has expressed confidence that the bank will be sold this year, in which case Dan might be forced by the new owners to carry out a painful reorganization.

About 250 employees said they want the company to be dismantled and to receive remuneration for their shares in it. According to the employees, this would mean that the cooperative would have to transfer "tens of millions of shekels," the *Telegraph* said.

Transportation Ministry spokeswoman Ora Salomon said the figures reported had apparently come from unauthorized sources and not from Dan management, since the cooperative had broken even in 1995, and had shown a profit in the two preceding years.

She said the report may have referred to a "planned debt" that the company had taken on in 1995, and not a budgetary deficit.

"The cooperative is carefully implementing its budget," Salomon said. "If there had been problems with the budget, it would have asked the government for help, and no such request was ever received."

\$500,000 net profit for IAI subsidiary

STEVE RODAN

COMMODORE Aviation, the Miami-based subsidiary of Israel Aircraft Industries, posted a \$500,000 net profit last year, compared with a \$3.4 million loss in 1994, company executives announced yesterday.

The company also announced \$25m. in sales, a 39% increase from \$18m. in 1994.

Commodore was established by IAI as a repair and maintenance station for airlines plying the South American route, including El Al.

Commodore is expected to achieve \$1m. in profits and \$27m. in sales this year, the executives said.

The company's director-general is Mordechai Handel, while its board director is David Arzi, a deputy director-general at IAI.

Executives said 70% of Commodore's expected sales for the year have already produced signed contracts with various airlines.

The company's competitors in the US include American Eagle, a subsidiary of American Airlines, and DHL - the air freight service.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Sale of Elscint's ultrasound business to Elbit approved: Elscint shareholders have approved the sale of the company's ultrasound business to Elbit Ultrasound. The sale price consists of at least \$14.8 million, an amount equal to the net value of Elscint ultrasound assets as of December 31, 1995, plus \$850,000 and royalties from future ultrasound sales over the next seven years for a minimum of \$6m., Elscint announced yesterday.

Shareholders enhanced the terms of sale by eliminating the ceiling on royalty payments and increasing the total payment by \$600,000. "The approval of the sale will allow the company to further its corporate strategy of concentrating on the three medical modalities - Computer Tomography, Nuclear Medicine and Magnetic Resonance Imaging," said CEO Jonathan Adereth. Rachel Neiman

MZPK completes acquisition of Na'aman Porcelain from Koor: Kitchenware importer MZPK yesterday completed its \$10 million acquisition of Na'aman Porcelain from Koor. The company intends to upgrade the Na'aman production line and expand its chain of ten stores.

MZPK is currently negotiating a cooperative agreement with European porcelain firm Mobile to acquire advanced know-how and technology. Planned investment in the new factory is \$6m. Rachel Neiman

Tariffs on ice cream reduced: The Industry and Trade Ministry has reduced tariffs on ice cream to \$0.55 from \$0.73 per pint. Local Haagen Dazs distributor Omni brand foods yesterday announced it would reduce ice cream prices accordingly by \$0.08, or NIS 0.25, to NIS 21.65. Rachel Neiman

Two R&D corporations set up under ministry program: Two new research and development corporations have been set up by Industry and Trade Ministry's Office of the Chief Scientist Magnet Program. Both industry and academic research institutions will participate in the corporations. The first, headed by Gilat Satellite, is a consortium for development of technologies intended to provide broad band and on-line service allowing access to interactive multimedia information. The second consortium will develop lasers, including high-intensity laser diodes. The Magnet Program has an approved budget of \$185m. Rachel Neiman

'Standards Institute overcharges for tests'

EVELYN GORDON

THE Israel Standards Institute charges thousands of shekels to test items worth only a few shekels, the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce complained to the Knesset Economics Committee's consumer affairs subcommittee yesterday.

In a letter to the subcommittee, federation director-general Zvi Amit said the institute charges NIS 2,100 to test a simple hole-punch worth NIS 2.60, NIS 7,500 to test samples from a shipment of batteries, and NIS 4,055 to test an ordinary light bulb worth less than a shekel.

After the initial light bulb test, Amit added, importers are charged NIS 917.60 for each additional shipment of bulbs.

These high prices obviously increase the final price of the product for consumers, Amit noted.

Deputy chairman of the institute Ya'acov Gershfeld responded that the institute does not set its own prices for tests, and that

all prices are under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Subcommittee chairman Nami Chazan (Meretz) therefore demanded that the ministry give the committee a detailed list of what the prices are for different tests, and how these prices are supervised.

Currently, she said, the committee has no idea how the prices are set.

She praised the ministry, however, for having honored the committee's request and prepared legislation allowing testing to be done by private laboratories as well as the Standards Institute.

This will presumably introduce competition, said thereby bringing down the price of testing.

Chazan also demanded that consumer groups be given greater representation on the committees that set the standards. If this is not done within a month, she said, she will introduce legislation on the subject.

France's Giat loses FR 12 billion in '95

PARIS (Reuters) - French state-owned arms maker Giat Industries suffered a loss of about FR 12 billion last year, Defense Minister Charles Millon said yesterday.

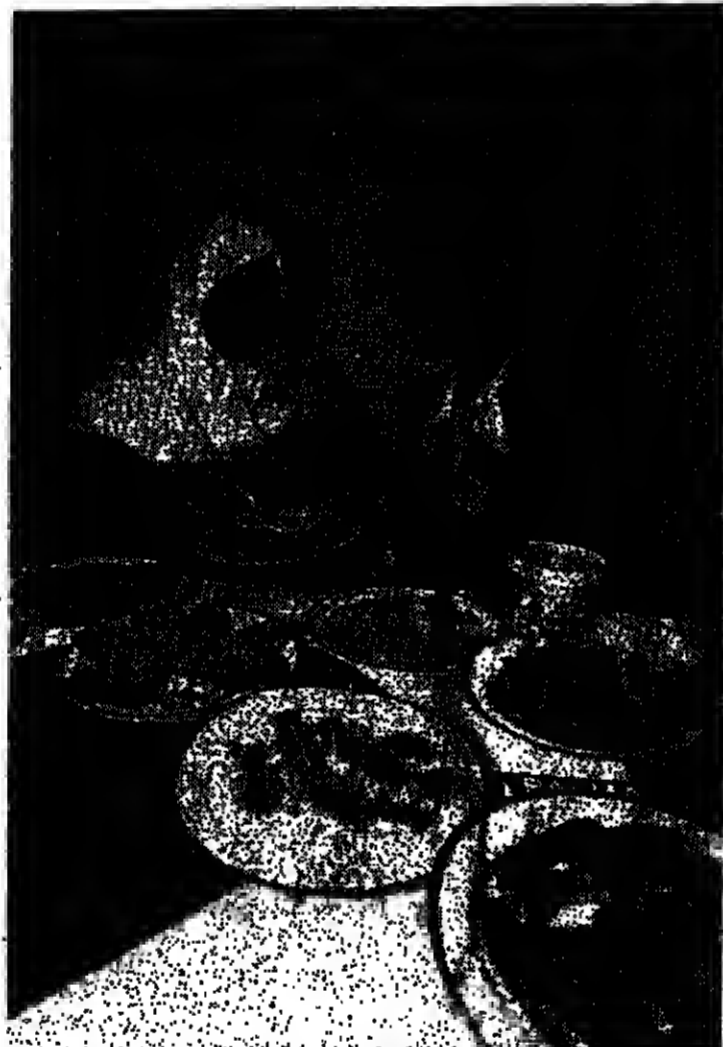
The company, which makes the Leclerc battle tank and owns the Winchester rifle brand, had been expected to post a loss of between FR 4 billion and FR 12b. for last year.

"There is a loss of FR 12b.," Millon told journalists. "This is a result of a certain number of errors, but our problem is not to analyze the mistakes of the past, but to work on the future of the company."

Despite its present difficulties, he stressed that the company would honor all its export commitments.

Giat's largest export deal is a FR 20b. contract to supply the United Arab Emirates with 436 Leclerc tanks.

Despite that sale, the company posted a FR 1.3b. loss last year, due to mismanagement of its foreign currency hedging arrangements on the cash deposits from the contract.



Wafa Shihab and Sarah Kramer, co-directors of the Arab-Jewish Center for Economic Development, taste some of the food products displayed yesterday at a Jerusalem conference which drew some 200 Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian, and Jordanian food producers and marketers. The slogan of the conference, the first of its kind, was "A Taste of Peace." (Ulan Osendryer/Israel Sun)

Departure of Chubais likely to signal shift in Russian economic policy

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The departure of reform chief Anatoly Chubais is likely to signal a shift in Russia's economic policy, but the framework created in four years of reforms may yet withstand the strain, economists said yesterday.

The economists said President Boris Yeltsin had sacrificed his top reformer to take account of last month's parliamentary election, when communists won over 20 percent of the vote.

But analysts said the government, its hands tied by a tight 1996 budget, may find it hard to spend its way out of trouble this year.

Chubais will be missed for his

economic clout, but his achievements - lower inflation, a stable ruble and a virtual end to a prolonged output decline - will not go away.

"Chubais has been sacrificed to the presidential election campaign," said Christopher Granville, analyst at United City Bank in Moscow.

"The rhetoric will change to investment and turning the corner to growth, but I cannot see substantive policy change," he said.

Yeltsin has not yet said whether he will stand in June, but Chubais's departure was the latest in a big reshuffle that has given both the government and the presiden-

tial team a stronger conservative slant.

Chubais had taken most of the blame for the lower living standards since the reform program got under way.

"Our fully respected president has decided to change course completely on the eve of the election," Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the old parliament's budget committee, said.

"He has chosen to strengthen support for weaker members of society, but will have to print money to do it," he said.

The analysts said printing money would be a sure recipe for faster inflation, but they said the framework was in place to prevent Russia from starting up the printing presses again.

New laws say the central bank cannot issue unauthorized credits to fund a budget gap and a promise to hold the ruble stable until

July will also tie the government's hands.

Chubais, 40, was the last surviving member of the team that launched the reforms in Russia in 1992.

He masterminded Russia's privatization campaign before taking responsibility for the whole reform program.

He had been a tough advocate of a strict anti-inflation policy, claiming credit for a sharp fall in monthly inflation rates last year.

Prices rose 3.2% in December, down from almost 20% a month at the start of the year, and the 1996 budget assumes a monthly rate of 1.9% inflation this year.

Officials stress that Russia must now concentrate on helping those who lost out during the painful economic reform.

But Russia's commitment to keep inflation down will be a major factor behind a possible deal with the International Monetary

Fund to lend Russia some \$9 billion over the next three years.

Chubais had been due to lead the Russian side in talks that opened yesterday, but a Russian Finance Ministry official said the reformer's departure would not affect the outcome.

Anatoly Tolstikov, deputy head of the ministry's international financial organizations, said the two sides had talked about data on Russia's economic program for 1996.

"We just discussed technicalities," he said.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Target for Foreign Residents

Date: 16.1.96

Purchase Price: 145.85

Redemption Price: 143.62

PRIME Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 16.1.96

Purchase Price: 108.42

Redemption Price: 106.98

MINISTRY OF FINANCE Accountant General

Tender No. 2/96

Bids are invited for the supply of goods and services, required by government agencies located throughout Israel:

1. Selami and sausages
2. Turkey meat products

Last date for submitting bids: Tuesday, February 27, 1996, at 12 noon.

Bid forms are available from the Tenders and Purchasing Department, The Accountant General's Office, Room 714 or 715, Min. of Finance Building, 1 Rehov Kaplan, Jerusalem. Additional details can be obtained from 02-317428, 02-317418.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

Bank of Israel

Banking Supervision Department

Public Inquiries Unit

The telephone number of the Public Inquiries Unit of the Banking Supervision Department in Jerusalem has been changed.

As of Thursday, January 18, 1996, the new number will be 02-6552680, Fax: 02-6552666.

Mailing address: POB 780, Jerusalem 81007.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS			
Patish (foreign currency deposit rates) (17.1.96)			
Currency (deposit to)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar (USD/ILS)	4.500	4.500	4.500
Pound sterling (GBP/ILS)	2.000	2.000	2.125
Swiss franc (CHF/ILS)	0.785	0.785	0.820
Yen (JPY million yen)			
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (17.1.96)			
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BUY	SELL	REP.
Currency basket	3.2570	3.2570	3.2570
U.S. Dollar	3.1435	3.041	3.1200
German mark	2.1488	2.07	2.15
French franc	4.8225	4.68	4.89
Japanese Yen (100)	0.0292	0.029	0.0293
Swedish krona	2.5701	2.57	2.57
Dutch Guilder	1.9181	1.88	1.92
British Pound	2.8905	2.87	2.90
Spanish peseta	0.4718	0.46	0.4680
Swiss franc	0.4925	0.47	0.48
Portuguese Escudo	0.5289	0.52	0.52
Canadian dollar	0.7102	0.70	0.7040
Australian dollar	2.2593	2.22	2.23
S. African rand	2.3314	2.28	2.2778
Indian Rupee (100)	0.8928	0.87	0.87
Malaysian Ringgit	1.0454	1.01	1.02
Thai Baht (100)	3.0966	3.05	3.10
Jordanian Dinar	1.9849	1.91	1.92
Israeli Shekel			
ECU	3.3688	3.270	3.308
Irish Punt	4.8997	4.863	4.92
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5028	2.48	2.50
These rates are according to bank.			
			Bank of Israel

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark exchange rates against NIS.

INTEL STOCK MARKETS table showing New York market indexes and NYSE stocks.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Tokyo Nikkei, and Hong Kong Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing various companies like Am to P, Arif, and others with their prices and changes.

INTEL MONEY MARKETS table showing Dollar crossrates (US) for various currencies.

INTEL COMMODITIES AND METALS table showing US commodities and London commodities.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds.

US commodities table listing various goods like Cocoa, Sugar, and Wheat.

Spot market metals (US) table listing Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

London metal fixes table listing various metals like Gold, Silver, and Copper.

New York metal futures table listing Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

London metal fixes table listing various metals like Gold, Silver, and Copper.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading tables listing various stocks and their prices.

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various companies and markets.

Gains by Koor help push indexes higher

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ. Two-Sided index up 0.70%, Maof Index up 0.84%.

STOCK indexes rose yesterday, tracking gains shares posted in New York on Tuesday. Gains were led by Koor Industries, which went up 1.75 percent.

FTSE Index closes 6.4 points lower

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - UK blue chips closed moderately lower yesterday as investors took some profits after Tuesday's near 48 points advance.

A weak start on Wall Street gave up earlier gains to end flat, with follow-through buying failing to emerge despite the stronger dollar against the yen.

FRANKFURT - German shares closed lower yesterday, interrupting a week of continual gains, as a downturn on German debt markets dragged the equity market down.

The 30-share DAX Index closed the floor trading session down 5.57 points at 2,371.30 points. In post-bourse trading the index was down 3.80 at 2,375.63.

PARIS - French shares closed sharply higher on rate cut hopes yesterday, with the CAC-40 index of leading shares posting a 0.71 percent gain after a 1.44 percent advance on Tuesday.

Dealers said a firmer dollar also helped. Dealers said the market is expecting a 0.25% cut in rates after today's meeting of the Bank of France monetary policy council.

The CAC-40 index closed up 13.90, or 0.71%, at 1,966.00. ZURICH - Swiss shares ended lower in nervous trading but off the day's floors as the market came under pressure from profit-taking in shares with heavy weightings in the blue chip SMI index.

Blue-chip stocks fall on earnings warnings

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended with big losses yesterday after corporate giants such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. issued warnings that their earnings will be disappointing for the latest quarter.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended 21.32 points lower at 5,066.90, erasing nearly half of Tuesday's gain of 44 points.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table showing exchange rates for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, and FFR.

Agassi wins easily on mended knee

MELBOURNE (AP) - No worries, mate. Andre Agassi has mended from a knock on the knee that nearly put him out of the Australian Open in the first round.

The defending champion and No. 2 seed - competing with Pete Sampras and Thomas Muster for the top spot in the rankings - scampered around the court and belted winners from all angles in a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 victory last night over fellow American Vincent Spadea.

Agassi had banged his right knee into a post in a misstep on a metal spiral staircase in his hotel room Sunday night and, hobbled by the swelling, barely escaped being upset Monday by qualifier Gaston Etlis of Argentina in a five-set match. On Wednesday, he no longer sported a bandage on the knee.

Spadea stayed with him for the better part of the first set, even breaking service once, before beginning to feel the sting of Agassi's rockets.

Agassi was frustrated by his erratic first serve. His shouted description of it at one point in the sixth game of the third set brought him a code violation for an obscenity. When he missed his next first serve, the ball bounced back to him from the net and Agassi swung blindly at it behind his back and nearly hit a bellboy in the head.

Had he faced Spadea on Monday, he would now be out, he said later.

Earlier, Stefan Edberg made the first big farewell of his farewell tour.

Edberg struggled through his second five-set match in two days, losing 6-4, 2-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 to French qualifier Jean-Philippe Fleurian in three hours.

Top-seeded Monica Seles made quick work of advancing to the next round. She disposed of Katarina Studenikova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-1 in 51 minutes.

Another famous name returned to prominence. Patrick McEnroe, younger brother of former No. 1 John, overcame a miserable start to upset No. 14 Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine 6-0, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2. The younger McEnroe, ranked No. 57, was a semifinalist here in 1991.

Another casualty among seeded players included No. 9 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, who was hampered by a hamstring injury in a 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 loss to Karol Kucera of Slovakia.

No. 3 Muster advanced to the third round with a 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(7-4) victory over Javier Frana of Argentina, and No. 5 Michael Chang breezed past Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

Women's No. 3 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario beat Germany's Barbara Rittner 6-3, 6-2 in a second-round match.

Harsh language tarnished the match between No. 8 Jim Courier and fellow American Jeff Tarango, notorious for outraging the tennis establishment by walking out of a match at Wimbledon last year, accusing an umpire of corruption.

Both say they are friends off court, but Tarango was shouting



CRUSHING BLOW - Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini displays a devastating forehand en route to her second round win against Slovakia's Karina Habsudova yesterday. (Reuters)

at the umpire, trying to have Courier penalized for foul language and throwing his racket. He said later a penalty point could end up swinging a close match.

Courier, the 1992 and 1993 champion here, rebounded from 1-4 in the third set and won 7-5, 6-7(2), 6-4, 6-3 in 3 hours, 22 minutes. He said the outburst of Tarango, a "marked man,"

didn't bother him.

Also advancing to the third round were No. 6 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, No. 7 Iva Majoli of Croatia, No. 15 Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan and two American seeds - No. 9 Mary Joe Fernandez and No. 13 Chanda Rubin.

Smashnova falls in three sets

ANNA Smashnova's run at the Australian Open ended yesterday when she was beaten in three sets by America's Tami Whitlinger Jones in the second round.

Last year Smashnova reached the third round of the tournament where she lost to twelfth-seed Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands.

Ironically, Smashnova disposed of this year's twelfth-seed Natasha Zvereva from Belarus in the first round but after taking the first set against Whitlinger Jones, ranked 62 against Smashnova's 73, the Israeli went down 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

The 19-year-old Smashnova could not reproduce her sparkling first round shots against the 28-year-old American and failed badly in the final set.

Eyal Ran, the last Israeli still in the tournament, was scheduled to play early this morning on center court against Mark Philippoussis, the 19-year-old Australian, ranked 40 in the world. Ran's current ranking is 160.

Sabatini beat Karina Habsudova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-3; Majoli beat American Lori McNeil 6-3, 6-2; Fernandez beat Maria-Antonia Sanchez Lorenzo of Spain 6-2, 6-0; Rubin beat Tina Krizan of Slovenia 6-7(7-3), 6-2, 6-3; and Sawamatsu ousted American Linda Wild 6-4, 6-3.

Advancing among men's seeds were No. 11 Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands and No. 15 Todd Martin. Krajicek beat Frederik Ferdin of Denmark 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 and Martin struggled past fellow American Richey Reneberg 6-2, 7-5, 3-6, 7-6(7-5).

Maccabi seeks first road win tonight in Lisbon

BRIAN FREEMAN

MACCABI Tel Aviv will attempt to break a three-game losing streak tonight and win on the road for the first time this season in a European Club Championship clash against Benfica Lisbon.

The Portuguese champions, 1-8 in Group B, won their first game in the final pool last week, a 99-90 triumph over Pau-Orthez.

But the club, 8-29 the past three seasons in final pool play, is clearly not capable of consistently taking on the might of Europe.

Maccabi has never lost to Benfica, but head coach Zvi Sherf has had memories of Portugal from his tenure at Hapoel Tel Aviv, who in 1993 the team blew a golden opportunity to advance to its first European Final 16 by losing 10-8 to Benfica in the preliminaries.

Benfica's core is the same, but age has started to catch up on the club's two key players.

Jean Jacques, 32, has slipped to averages of only 13.3 points and 6.0 rebounds a game, after last season posting a 19.1 scoring average with 11.6 boards and in

1994 scoring 20.2 points and pulling down 10.8 rebounds.

He is also playing only 30 minutes per game, compared with almost 38 minutes last season.

Carlos Lisboa, 37, scores a club-leading 15.5 points a game. But he is only making only 29.7 percent of his three-point shots (22-74), an unacceptably low proportion considering he takes an astounding 80% of his shots from behind the three-point arc.

Center Mike Nahar from the Netherlands (14.5 points, 5.5 rebounds) has been a welcome addition this season, providing another scoring threat for the team.

In the first encounter between the two teams in November, Maccabi played one of its worst halves ever at Yad Elisha, falling behind by 18 points before racing back in the second period to salvage a 74-66 victory.

Ironically, Maccabi's last loss against a team which finished in the cellar was during the 1991-92 season, when Tel Aviv advanced

to the quarter-finals despite a loss to Phonola Caserte (which was 0-7 at the time).

Maccabi cannot afford such a luxury tonight after blowing a seven-point lead with 4:40 left in the game to lose last week a home to Real Madrid.

In other Group B matchups tonight, Real Madrid hosts Barcelona, Bologna travels to Pau-Orthez and Cibona Zagreb hosts Panathinaikos.

The Maccabi-Benfica game is scheduled to be shown live starting at 9 p.m. on Channel 1.

European Club Championships

Group A	
	Pts.
1. CSKA Moscow	16
2. Benfica Lisbon	15
3. Olympiacos	14
4. Ulker Istanbul	14
5. Maccabi Tel Aviv	13
6. Anadolu Efes	12
7. Iraklis Salonika	12
8. Bayer Leverkusen	6

Group B	
	Pts.
1. Barcelona	15
2. Real Madrid	15
3. Valencia	14
4. Cibona Zagreb	14
5. Pau-Orthez	13
6. Maccabi Tel Aviv	13
7. Buckler Bologna	8
8. Benfica Lisbon	1

Rodman hits his first triple-double as Bulls win 26th straight at home

CHICAGO (AP) - Dennis Rodman had his first career triple-double end his first 3-pointer of the season Tuesday night as the Chicago Bulls tied a team record with their 26th straight home victory, beating Philadelphia 116-104.

Michael Jordan had 32 points for the Bulls (32-3), who have won nine in a row overall. Their home winning streak, matching their mark set in 1990-91, includes 19 games this season and the final seven last year.

Jerry Stackhouse scored 24 points for Philadelphia.

Playing in his 700th career game, Rodman had his triple-dou-

ble with 21 rebounds, 10 points and a career-high 10 assists. In the first half, Rodman had 13 rebounds to Philadelphia's 12.

Shawne Kemp was double- and triple-teamed but still managed 31 points and 16 rebounds for the Sixers.

The Sixers, improving their Key Arena record to 15-1, won their third game in a row and for the 11th time in 13 games. They notched their 10th straight home-court victory.

Kemp made 12 of 17 shots from the floor, 7 of 11 from the free throw line and had 10 points in the fourth quarter. Hersey Hawkins and Gary Payton each scored 21 points for the Sixers.

Turrell Brandon led the Cavaliers

with 24 points. Dan Majerle added 21 and Bobby Philis 20.

Spurs 121, Celtics 97

David Robinson's 27 points led six Spurs players in double figures and host San Antonio won its fifth in a row. San Antonio, which outbounded the Celtics 53-32, held a 24-point halftime lead that grew to 24 points before the third quarter was halfway over. The Celtics never got closer than 12 the rest of the way.

Sean Elliott had 22 points. Vinny Del Negro 19, Will Perdue 13, Avery Johnson 14 and Chuck Person 10.

TUESDAY'S NBA RESULTS:
 Indiana 116, Toronto 102
 Seattle 99, Cleveland 89
 Chicago 116, Philadelphia 104
 San Antonio 121, Boston 97
 Portland 87, Denver 69

Ipswich sinks Blackburn

LONDON (Reuters) - Ipswich substitute Paul Mason dumped Premier League champions Blackburn out of the FA Cup on Tuesday night by scoring the only goal of their third round replay deep into extra time.

But last season's beaten finalist, Manchester United, was spared similar embarrassment by a First Division team when Andy Cole headed a last-minute goal to earn his side a 2-1 win at Sunderland. In other FA Cup action, Shrewsbury beat Fulham 2-1.

Ipswich 1, Blackburn 0
 A penalty shoot-out was looming in the tie at Blackburn when Masoo struck.

Alex Mathie's cross from the left was laid back by Neil Gregory for Mason to blast home.

Blackburn's shock defeat meant it became only the second Premier League club to fall at this first hurdle.

Manchester United 2, Sunderland 1
 Manchester United, beaten 1-0 by Everton in the 1995 final, had trailed at halftime at Sunderland to a Phil Gray goal, his eighth of the season.

But United took control in the second half and Sunderland could have no complaints when substitute Paul Scholes scored his 11th of the season in the 70th minute.

Just eight minutes after replacing Nicky Butt, Scholes made room for himself 25 meters out and placed the ball precisely into the bottom corner of the net.

Cole's winner, following a period of sustained United pressure, was set up by Lee Sharpe's precise cross from the left. Sharpe had come on at the start of the second half in place of Paul Parker.

Shrewsbury 2, Fulham 1
 Substitute Mark Dempsey landed Second Division Shrewsbury the glittering prize of a home tie against Liverpool when he raced through for an improbable winner with only three minutes left of their replay against Fulham.

South Africa clinches series

DURBAN (Reuters) - A record third wicket partnership between Hansie Cronje and Jacques Kallis along with some fiery fast bowling from Allan Donald won South Africa the fifth one day international against England yesterday and clinched them the series.

After Donald had led the way in bowling out England for a paltry 184 in 49.5 overs with a return of 4-41 from his 10 overs, South Africa lost Gary Kirsten and Andrew Hudson to Dominic Cork with just nine runs on the board.

But thanks principally to Cronje (78) and Kallis (67), they reached their target with 10 balls to spare.

England
 A. Houghton 0, S. Chanderpaul 17, J. Kallis 67, H. Cronje 78, S. Lawry 14, I. Bell 12, G. Miller 12, G. Cook 3, J. Tait 21, P. de Vries 3, P. de Villiers 3, P. Kallis 3, M. Hogg 3, D. Murray 3, D. Murray 3, S. Lawry 15
 Total (all out in 49.5 overs) 184
 Fall of wickets: 1-81 (29.3-61.4-78.5-132.6-164.7-170.8-177.9-178.10-184)
 Bowling: England 10-1-31-2 (w-1), Matthews 10-1-37-2 (w-1), de Villiers 8.5-0-83-1 (w-1), Donald 10-0-41-4, Miller 9-0-50-0 (w-1), Cronje 2-0-0-0.

South Africa
 A. Houghton 0, S. Chanderpaul 17, J. Kallis 67, H. Cronje 78, S. Lawry 14, I. Bell 12, G. Miller 12, G. Cook 3, J. Tait 21, P. de Vries 3, P. de Villiers 3, P. Kallis 3, M. Hogg 3, D. Murray 3, D. Murray 3, S. Lawry 15
 Total (for five wickets, 48.2 overs) 188
 DHI not out 67, Cronje 78, Kallis 67, de Vries 3, de Villiers 3, P. de Villiers 3, P. Kallis 3, M. Hogg 3, D. Murray 3, D. Murray 3, S. Lawry 15
 Fall of wickets: 1-2.9-1.27-4-150.5-183
 Bowling: South Africa 10-0-84-0 (w-2), Cork 9-2-0-52.5 (w-1), de Vries 9-0-41-0 (w-2), Gough 10-0-52-0 (w-1), Willis 8-1-48-1, Hill 2-0-0-0
 Result: South Africa won by five wickets
 First match: South Africa won by six runs
 Second match: England won by five wickets
 Third match: South Africa won by three wickets
 Fourth match: South Africa won by seven wickets
 Sixth match (Cash Lottery): January 18
 Seventh match (Pret Elizabeth): January 21

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Eight hoopsters suspected of fixing games
 Eight National League basketball players are suspected of betting on games in which they took part and fixing results by purposely missing shots to ensure the final score was in accordance with their bets, Army Radio reported yesterday.

Among the eight are foreign contract players and members of the national team, the report said.

Deputy Education Minister in charge of sport, Micha Goldman, said that the players concerned should be suspended immediately.

Goldman asked Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal to speed up the investigation into the matter, which began in October, after Army Radio originally broke the story. *lim*

English clubs snub Intertoto Cup
 English Premier League clubs on Tuesday decided not to enter this year's Intertoto Cup.

They also gave unanimous support to Tottenham and Wimbledon in their battle with UEFA.

The two London clubs were banned last week for a season from European competition for fielding below-strength teams in last year's Intertoto competition. *Rcuer*

Proposal calls for interleague baseball play
 Major League Baseball could install interleague play as soon as the 1997 regular season if a proposal presented at an owners meeting in Los Angeles Tuesday night is approved by club owners and players.

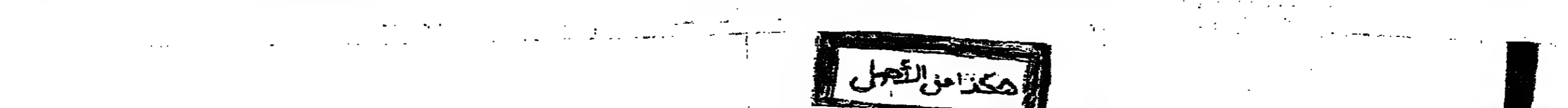
Under the plan proposed by Philadelphia Phillies president Bill Giles, teams would play 15 games against teams from the same division in the other league. *Reuters*

Caesarea golf roundup
 THE weekend competition at the Caesarea Golf Club was the first round of the grand prize tournament. The field is divided into two divisions. It is a four game individual stableford competition. The winner in each division is the two best scores of the four games. Each winner receives two airplane tickets to Europe and a week's accommodation at the Danone Hotel in Kola, Germany. Second place gets a long weekend for two at the Moriah Dead Sea Hotel.

Leaders in Division A are: David Adelman, Leslie Ben Amir and Clive Tosset, all tied at 37 points. In Division B, Rena Gilon leads with 41 points and tied for second with 40 are Ben Narcys and El Segev. *Jules Ciburnek*

GUESS WHO?
 Who was the last non-American to win the Australian Open men's singles title?
 Bjorn Borg
 Thomas Muster
 Ivan Lendl
 Boris Becker
 Answer tomorrow.

Answer to yesterday's 'Guess Which': Only the Detroit Red Wings, the Winnipeg Jets and the San Jose Sharks haven't been shown this NHL season.



Early elections bill defeated

LIAT COLLINS

TSOMET'S bill calling for the early dissolution of the Knesset and elections in July was rejected yesterday 52-31, with five abstentions.

Emanuel Zissman (Labor) voted for dissolution; David Mena (Likud) abstained, as did four barei MKs.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, who spoke on behalf of the government, proposed enacting a law which would require elections to take place no later than 45 days after an early dissolution of the Knesset.

Explaining why he opposed the Tsomet bill, Shahal said "in a democratic state it is not correct to change the date of elections except under very exceptional circumstances."

He accused Tsomet of introducing the bill for its own narrow

political considerations, and said there is no point in calling for early dissolution if elections are not to take place for another six months. Shahal noted that this government has survived more than 100 no-confidence motions.

"This government has received a majority," he said.

Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan, responding to Shahal, asked: "What are these if not very exceptional circumstances? They are about to give up the whole Golan Heights. Is not Jerusalem considered an exceptional circumstance?"

He said many of those who voted for Labor would not have done so if they had known what the government's policies would be.

Eitan said the public should be consulted before fateful decisions are taken.

Labor Party preparing for early primaries

SARAH HONG

THE Labor Party is conducting consultations with an eye to rescheduling the party primaries to accommodate early elections.

The date for primaries has already been advanced recently. However, the party is now giving serious consideration to moving primaries to April 2 or late March.

The primaries were initially due to be held in June and were advanced to mid-April. At the time, this intensified speculation that the real aim was to adjust the party schedule for possible early elections. The official party line, though, was that they aimed to prevent the tension and infighting, which the primary bouts are sure to bring, from reaching their epitome too close to elections.

Now, Labor sources admit primaries need to be advanced to adjust to the likelihood of early

elections.

The Likud's primaries were long ago scheduled for March 26, and now Labor is unofficially considering holding its own primaries at around the same time.

The consultations in the party were initiated by Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli who has said on several occasions recently that early elections are in the cards.

Despite Labor's official stand against early elections, the consensus in the political arena is that Labor is in fact moving toward early elections and these will be staged off only by an extraordinary development on the Syrian front.

The final decision remains with Prime Minister Shimon Peres who will have to make up his mind by mid-February at the very latest.

Peres to Beirut: Lay off Lahad

DAVID RUDGE

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres yesterday called on the Lebanese government to curb terrorism and cease its maltreatment of the South Lebanese Army and its commander.

Peres, who met in Jerusalem with SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, lambasted the decision by the Beirut government to issue a warrant for Lahad's arrest.

He expressed concern over the stance adopted by the Lebanese government which allows Hizbullah, which receives its orders from Iran, to rampage in south Lebanon, while refusing to understand the SLA's value.

"It is as clear as daylight that there won't be peace [with Lebanon] without an honorable arrangement that will allow the incorporation of the South Lebanon force into Lebanon's future," said Peres.

On Tuesday, a Beirut military court issued a warrant for Lahad's arrest, charging him with "taking up arms alongside the enemy, helping Israel to occupy parts of Lebanon, carrying out acts of terrorism and killing or attempting to kill large number of Lebanese citizens."

Peres said the warrant was "a deliberate insult against the man who heads the SLA, and we won't let the matter pass."

He noted that Lahad was an

officer of the Lebanese army and described him as "a great Lebanese patriot."

Also attending the Peres-Lahad meeting were Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on Lebanon, Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai and OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine.

The SLA commander, concerned about the future of the SLA and the security zone, criticized the Lebanese government for treating him and his soldiers as traitors.

He told Peres that the SLA's morale was high and there was an



Moshe Feiglin (right), one of the three Zo Artzenu leaders whose trial opened yesterday, arrives in court. (Isaac Haran)

Trial of Zo Artzenu heads begins

HERB KEINON

THE seditious trial of the three Zo Artzenu heads opened in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday, with the defense asking the judges to dismiss the case on the grounds that the indictment is a transparent attempt to quell legitimate opposition.

"This is not an indictment, it is an editorial," said Sefi Elon, representing his brother, Rabbi Benny Elon.

The three-judge panel, made up of court president Amnon Cohen, Zvi Zilbertal and Shulamit Dotan, did not decide whether they will dismiss the case, but they did accede to Elon's request that the indictment be fleshed out.

In a presentation before the court that dripped with sarcasm, Elon said the charge sheet refers to sedition, and the publication of seditious material, but does not give specific dates, times or locations where the alleged seditious acts took place.

In addition to Benny Elon, the others charged with sedition and eight other offenses are Moshe Feiglin and Samuel Sackett.

The three are accused of conspiring to "interfere with carrying out the decisions of the legitimate government of Israel, which had been legally taken and confirmed by the

Knesset, in connection with government policy in Judea, and Samaria; and to force the government to change its policies and retreat from decisions legally taken in these matters.

"All this was accomplished by appeals to the public to carry out illegal acts, including massive interference with public order and police activity, and in order to break the bonds of adherence to the rules of law."

The small courtroom in the Russian Compound was packed, with the defendants themselves struggling to find a place on one of the three long rows of benches. Feiglin and Sackett wore Zo Artzenu buttons on their sweaters. A banner, put up by Zo Artzenu supporters outside the building, read "Protest is not sedition." A number of riot policemen were on alert outside the courtroom.

According to Sefi Elon, the case is a "constitutional case of the first degree, focusing attention on the principles of democracy - where freedom of expression, organizational ends, and criminal acts of sedition begin."

Elon argued that calling on people to join demonstrations that did not have proper po-

lice permits, or calling the government "illegitimate," "evil" or "criminal," did not constitute sedition.

Elon said that the plethora of witnesses the state plans to call, some 120, indicates that the state just wants to drag the trial on, to neutralize the leaders of a legitimate political movement.

Jerusalem District Attorney Moshe Lador, annoyed by both the tone and content of Elon's opening presentation, said that his colleague "went beyond what is acceptable."

He defended the indictment, saying that it included all the necessary details, and vehemently denied that it is "a political document."

Lador said the case is not about freedom of speech, but about a group that "tried to disrupt the daily life of the country so that the government will be unable to act as it has decided."

Lador said the defendants called on people to perform illegal acts, and that their actions as organizers of Zo Artzenu constituted a threat to democracy.

Sackett said after the hearing that he hope the trial turns into a "platform" that puts the country's democracy on trial.

PM denies rumor of written deal with Syria

BATSEVA TSUR

MEDIA reports that the US has drawn up a draft memorandum of understanding between Syria and Israel are baseless, the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres related to the issue on Tuesday, at a joint press conference with US Vice President Al Gore, when he said that "it is more logical first to reach agreement [on specific details] and then to put the details on paper, than to write down things only to find there is no agreement."

The reaction came after local papers published quotes from the London-based Arabic-language newspaper *A-Shark al-Aawsat*.

According to the reports, the "draft memorandum" has 12 points and foresees a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights within eight months and the dismantling of settlements within half a year after the signing of a treaty.

The London paper claimed the draft was based on 12 points, including recognition by Israel of the Golan as Syrian territory. Israel and Syria would grant each other diplomatic recognition, the paper said, and both sides would work toward normalization and

joint economic projects would be set up.

As for security arrangements, the report said that US troops would man the border while a symbolic international force would be stationed on the Syrian side of the border for the first two years. Early warning stations on the Golan would be manned by the Americans, the report said.

Meanwhile, both Israeli and US officials are continuing to promote the possibility of a peace agreement before the upcoming elections in Israel.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir told EU ambassadors yesterday that "considerable understanding" has been reached with the Syrians concerning the quality of peace.

"Although Syria's positions are not entirely clear to us, we know for a fact that Syria is interested in signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1996," he said. "In the upcoming round of talks, we will focus on the security arrangements and water issues," Savir continued.

"We have made clear to the Syrians that peace between us must be stable, sustainable and irreversible," Savir said.

Weizman back from Germany

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman returned yesterday from his state visits to the Czech Republic and Germany.

The final stop of his eight-day trip was in Dresden, in the former East Germany, underlining the fact that he is the first Israeli head of state to visit the united Germany.

The president was presented by city officials with a book outlining the history of the Jews in Dresden. There were some 6,000 Jews in Dresden on the eve of World War II; there are about 100 today.

Weizman also conferred with Kurt Riedenkopf, the prime minister of the state of Saxony, in which Dresden is located.

At a press conference afterwards, Weizman noted there were similarities between the problems encountered in the merging of west and east Germany, and the absorption in recent years by Israel of some 600,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres sent a letter of greeting to Weizman upon his return, saying the nation is proud of the "heart-stirring speech you delivered to the parliament in Bonn."

WEATHER

Jerusalem 9-7
Be'er Sheva 8-13
Haifa 7-12
Tel Aviv 8-13
Ashdod 8-11
Samarina 8-13
Tiberias 7-13
Golan 8-5
Dead Sea 10-18
Eilat 8-17

Forecast: Rain showers. Decrease in temperatures. Snow in the Hermon.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
American	01	22	01
Berlin	04	23	02
Buenos Aires	04	23	02
Cairo	02	28	03
Chicago	02	28	03
Copenhagen	02	28	03
Helsinki	02	28	03
London	02	28	03
Los Angeles	04	27	02
Madrid	04	27	02
Moscow	01	22	01
New York	02	28	03
Paris	02	28	03
Stockholm	02	28	03
Sydney	02	28	03
Tokyo	04	27	02
Toronto	01	22	01

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, seven of hearts, king of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

Ben-Porat criticizes defense industries in report

ALTHOUGH there were four fatal accidents at TAAS-Israel Industries between July 1992 and May 1993 - there had been none previously since 1987 - no action was taken against those responsible for three of them.

This emerged from a report on subjects related to the defense industries released yesterday by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat.

She noted that seven workers were killed and 42 injured in the four accidents, all of which were caused by violations of safety rules. In only one case, after a July 1992 accident at the Nof Yam plant, in which two workers were killed and \$24.5 million in damage caused, were two safety officials fired.

She also noted that after the Nof Yam accident, a Defense Ministry safety expert had recommended that the criteria for determining the safe distance between explosives plants and residential areas be reassessed. TAAS, she said, did not do the reassessment.

The report also criticized the air force for investing \$73 million in a project to develop a cluster bomb subsystem for use against armored vehicles, begun in 1981, and then dropping in 1993 when it was decided to purchase an American system instead.

She noted that the project had been reconsidered in 1988, but that it was decided to continue, even though there was uncertainty that the subsystem would fit in with the larger system it was meant to serve. The whole episode, she said, shows that the project was not thought through.

Ben-Porat also criticized Israel Aircraft Industries' decision-making process in regard to the sale of its Elta subsidiary. She said that several times between 1983 and late 1991, IAI tried to sell a certain percentage of the company, and even began preparations for an offering on the New York Stock Exchange.

In November 1991, however, the responsible ministers decided to sell the entire company, and requested it be severed from IAI. In July 1992, IAI decided to privatize Elta, but this was delayed.

Ben-Porat said the decision to privatize should not have been made by the IAI board, but by its owner - the government. She noted that since the initial decision to privatize Elta in 1983, despite the expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars to this end, the company had still not been sold by November 1994, the end of the period covered in her report.

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